JOHN BULL

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[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

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For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of Cover

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

£5
A WEEK
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THE BIGGEST PRIZE EVER OFFERED

SEE PAGE 93.

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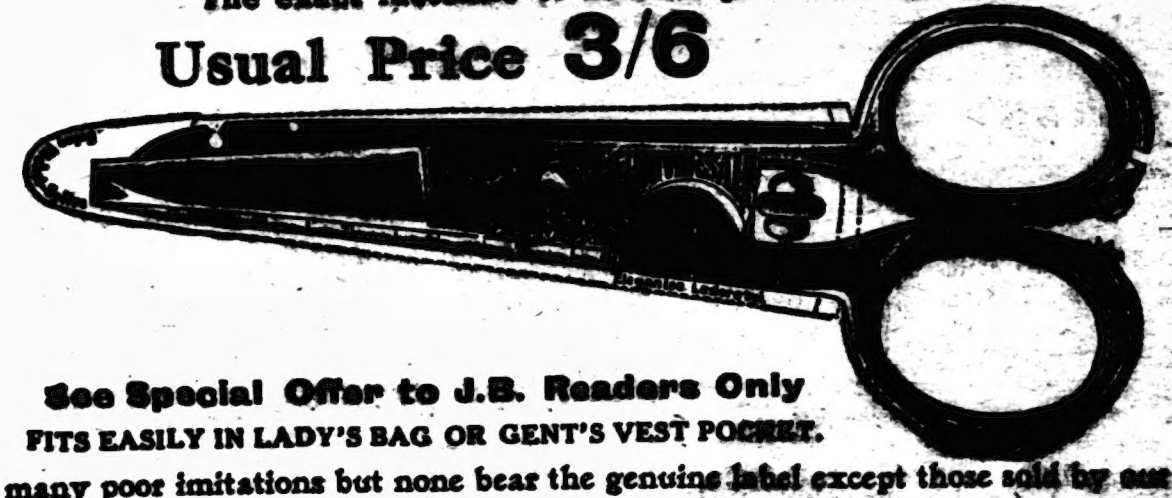

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The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of January 11th:—

23222	195514	392334	[illegible]637	695615
40404	199388	399340	[illegible]456	697254
46711	[illegible]949	434947	[illegible]142	699991
73314	[illegible]998	448709	[illegible]412	700608
87976	[illegible]488	[illegible]981	[illegible]709	702250
113237	[illegible]977	[illegible]988	[illegible]080	722381
141021	[illegible]880	[illegible]178	[illegible]235	736210
146568	325865	[illegible]984	[illegible]046	759159
163970	343481	[illegible]284	[illegible]049	768900
176169	352918	[illegible]988	[illegible]010	769914

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JOHN BULL.

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Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIV. No. 346. Week ending Saturday, January 18th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All FINANCIAL, INSURANCE *and* SPORTING *enquiries should be addressed to the* CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C. *All other communications should be addressed to* 93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

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HORATIO BOTTOMLEY,

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On Thursday, 30th January,

Doors open 7 p.m. Organ Recital 7-10—8 p.m.
Chair to be taken at 8 p.m. Admisson Free.

Tickets may be obtained from the Local Secretary, Mr. Norman Owen, The Primroses, Four Oaks, Birmingham, or from any member of the Birmingham Committee (see page 98), or from the General Secretary, John Bull League, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Sir Percy Scott.

Up to the time of going to press we have received no reply to the most serious allegation brought by us against Sir Percy Scott—namely, that whilst in active command, under Lord Charles Beresford, he connived at, aided and abetted, and took part, personally, in a bitter press campaign against his Senior Officer—taking special steps to discredit him and to undermine his authority. For such an offence he was, and is, liable to be Court-martialled; and we have respectfully suggested that Letters Patent for his recently conferred Baronetcy should be suspended pending an inquiry into the truth of our charges. In order that there should be no doubt as to our readiness to accept full responsibility for our words, we personally signed the paragraph. Neither Sir Percy Scott nor Mr. Churchill—whose attention we have called to it—can allow the matter to remain where it is.

No Election Yet.

Despite the feeler thrown out by Mr. Asquith the other day, it is pretty well settled that the Home Rule Election—*which must come*—will be deferred to the last possible date consistently with the provisions of the Parliament Act. Some of the shrewder members of the Cabinet would like to force "the appeal to the country," as it is called, before the Opposition have a chance of composing their differences over the Food Taxes—but Mr. Redmond says "No." He is determined that the Bill shall, nominally, at all events, become law. That it will never become operative we believe he fully realises. But there will be a good basis for negotiation with the Tories when they come into office.

"Did You Notice It?"

What? The declaration by the German Chancellor of the Exchequer that, "In a time of grave political crisis, it is essential to her safety that Germany should increase her gold reserves." That is all—but we commend the point to Mr. Lloyd George, who might with advantage now concentrate his attention on his duties at the Treasury.

The New Policy.

By the way, Mr. Lloyd George has been badly beaten in the Cabinet on the Land question—which, in the opinion of Lord Haldane (and others) is not "ripe." This bookworm has carried his point that "Education" is now the most pressing subject calling for legislation. We agree—but we should differ when we came to define the term. We know a boy in a Sussex village who can rattle off, without an effort, the date when every King and Queen of England came to the throne, and he can give the dates of all the big wars; he was top of the school and has a shelf-load of "prizes"—but he is the most ignorant youth we ever met. Lord Haldane would send him to Oxford or Cambridge; *we* would send him—to Jericho!

The Row Coming.

Have you noticed that a Socialist has been made Permanent Secretary to the Board of Agriculture—*and that it is not denied that Mr. Churchill will ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for an extra million or so for the Navy?* If you have, you have seen the beginning of the row.

Labour Journalism.

Is it true that the two Labour dailies—the *Citizen* and the *Herald*—are losing between them nearly £3,000 a week? When *will* these "leaders" realise that they have no followers?

Prescience Indeed!

From the *Daily Mirror:* "John Bull and Co., Ltd.—Record Month of December in a Booming Year—Colossal Figures." But how *did* they come to know it before our accounts are published?

£5 for Every Week of Your Life. See page 93.

Is Lord Rosebery "Coming Out"?

There is a wild rumour that the political friends of Lord Rosebery are pressing him to take advantage of the present ructions in the Unionist household to give life and body to his old idea of an Imperial Party, with himself as leader. Though the unexpected often happens, it has seemed that not only has Lord Rosebery lost his capacity and his taste for leadership, but that he realises it. "Unstable as water thou shalt not excel." So is it written; and his lordship is the servant of so many ideas and circumstances, while being the master of none, that it is unlikely that any body of which he consents to assume the leadership will hasten by a single moment the day when British Party government will altogether cease to be.

A Party Parasite.

We cannot refrain from culling a few flowers from a leading article in a Party paper: "This disaster" (the retirement of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Bonar Law) "would destroy the Party as a political force, and would therefore be a calamity to the country." Why? The loss of the Conservative Government was scarcely calamitous in 1905. What is the place of Party in the Constitution? We have studied all the chief authorities on constitutional law and constitutional history, but Party finds a place there merely as a fungus, accident or excrement.

Unconscious Humour.

Listen to the *Morning Post*: "Any policy which tends in the least degree to encourage the growth of wheat in this country ought to have the support of all patriots." Now, the confiscation of the land by the labourers would encourage the growth of wheat. Ergo, the *Morning Post* goes as far as the most advanced Socialist. Which is absurd.

Who Inspired the Idea?

Here is a pretty little fairy-tale from the village of Sinekly, in Macedonia. The whole population suddenly begged to join the Bulgarian Church. It is true the inhabitants were Christians once upon a time, but they have been Mahomedans for hundreds of years. Of course, their change of theological opinion may have been just a happy thought of their own, though its unanimity is certainly surprising. Anyhow, there has been a picturesque ceremony—men throwing away their fezzes and women removing their veils. But the conversion would have been more convincing after the withdrawal of King Ferdinand's armies. Baptism and bayonets!

Steady!

What is purported to be a spirit message from the late W. T. Stead concerning the Balkan War, appears in one of the magazines. He is stated to be "connected in a very definite manner with events in the Near East and is working where he now is, even as he did here, for the promotion of peace . . . he is working and influencing by impression." We are inclined to believe it. Something evidently has been disturbing and upsetting the Peace Delegates assembled in London, or they would probably have come to an agreement long ago.

The Only Turkish Statesman.

Now that Sultan Abdul-Hamid has been recalled to Constantinople, we wonder whether he is inspiring the present policy of procrastination? He is clever and patriotic enough to have come to the rescue in the hour of need. But he should have been called in several months ago.

"The Peril of St. Paul's."

St. Paul's is in danger. This is not an alarmist rumour, but the considered opinion of experts who have carefully examined the condition of the structure. There are only two courses for the responsible authorities to pursue. They must either restore the stability of the structure, making it good for at least another five hundred years, or—*pull it down*, and erect in its place a National Valhalla or Pantheon worthy not only of the illustrious dead, whose bones could be reverently transferred from the old to the new fabric, but great and grand enough to fulfil its function as the premier ecclesiastical building of the British Empire. There must be no tinkering with St. Paul's. There must be no tentative, cheese-paring repairs. It must either be made whole, even at the cost of diverting neighbouring "tubes" and sewers—water, gas, telegraph and telephone tunnels—or the site must be cleared to make way for a supreme effort of modern architectural genius, chosen from competitive designs submitted by British architects. We are not moved by sacerdotal sentiment—ecclesiastical considerations concern us not at all. But we realise the necessity for the existence of some inspiring structure in the heart of the Empire—a sort of spiritual centre for our far-flung nation, wherein the ashes of the Empire's sons and daughters may be enshrined, and towards which the eyes of Britons, no matter where they be, may turn in reverence and pride. A cranky, cracking, crumbling fabric cannot worthily fulfil this office. Therefore we repeat with emphasis—the stability of St Paul's Cathedral must either be completely restored, or it must be handed over to the house-breaker.

A Wonderful Shillingsworth.

The Practitioner, one of the medical journals, has issued a special number dealing with consumption, and Dr. Chalmers Watson contributes an article on the diet of sufferers from the Great White Plague. His specimen menus may be correct, but he seems lacking in the knowledge of household finance. Breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper may be provided, according to him, at a cost of under a shilling a day, and this is the diet he advises:—Porridge with milk and sugar, rasher of bacon or herring, bread, tea or coffee; two large chops, with potatoes, milk (or suet) pudding, bread, milk; bread and butter with jam; pea soup or porridge, bread, cheese, glass of milk. Now, if the good doctor can supply us with the address of any caterer who will serve up that little lot for less than a shilling, we know many who would be glad to make a contract with him. He might begin to verify things by asking his wife or his cook what is the market price of "two large chops."

A Doubtful "Benefit."

A reader, who is in a unique position to know, tells us that "in order to provide sanitorium accommodation under the Insurance Act the Metropolitan Asylums Board have been notified by the Commissioners that the infectious diseases, and particularly the small-pox, hospitals, will be required for those in need of sanitorium treatment. Such premises are to be occupied at a monthly rental, subject to being vacated in the event of smallpox or other infectious epidemic occurring." Not a nice outlook, figuratively or literally, for convalescents, as these buildings are isolated, with barren surroundings. Nor will the knowledge of what the premises have been used for be calculated to assist the recovery of the poor convalescents.

Another Seasonable Song.

A Bullite suggests as another "seasonable song," "Ye swanks and brays o' Bonar Law," sung by the Unionist Party.

The World's Greatest Prize Offer——

Germany and the Pole.

It is not our business to interfere in the domestic policy of Germany or any other European power. We have our own Ireland, and would resent the intrusion of any of our Continental neighbours in the settlement of the Ulster question. But Germany's treatment of her annexed Polish provinces we look upon as an International question. Every schoolboy knows that in the year 1815 the distracted Kingdom of Poland was annexed by Austria, Russia and Germany; and that at the Vienna Congress the property and other rights thitherto enjoyed by the Poles were guaranteed to them and confirmed by all the European powers. Those rights are now being callously ignored by Germany. The Polish landowners are to be driven out of their possessions by force, and the land, thus brutally and unscrupulously taken from them, is to be given to German colonists. Turkey never acted so harshly towards its late oppressed subjects in Macedonia and Thrace. And we are convinced that did Germany not know that the attention of Europe is preoccupied with the Balkan crisis, she would not venture on a step that so violently outrages the elementary principles of justice. She may annex their land and apportion it amongst her favoured myrmidons, but we shall be surprised if she succeeds in extinguishing the national spirit of the Poles. They have been a great, if a turbulent people, and have given more than one outstanding genius to the world. Such a nation, even in decay, should not be suffered to be crushed beneath the iron heel of the Teuton. "Not yet is Poland lost."

A Lewes "Hush-up"?

Is it true that in the small hours of the morning after the Southdown Hunt ball held at Lewes two or three men of good social position commenced recriminations outside the Town Hall, that a disgraceful *fracas* resulted, that one of the gentlemen concerned was put or thrown through a shop window, that two police sergeants and two constables were present and did not interfere, and that no proceedings whatever have been taken for a breach of the peace which, if the offenders had been of a lower social caste, would have landed them there and then into the nearest lock-up? The reply of the Chief-of-Police will receive our careful consideration.

Well Snubbed.

The Chairman of the Atherstone District Council, Mr. W. G. Phillips, gave a well-deserved snubbing to the Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. Slack, for trying to raise a discussion to the detriment of an official who had the temerity to take a day off to attend Wolverhampton races. Service on public bodies will become intolerable indeed if officials are to be tied to their chairs and compelled to apply to their councils for permission every time they wish to stretch their legs. If the Atherstone Sanitary Inspector had cleared up his work and spent a day at a Love Feast or a Stiggins gathering or a teetotal society, the member who made the fuss because he happened to prefer a race meeting would not have said a word by way of objection.

Our Poor Poor-Law.

If the British ratepayer has been reading the just-published annual Report of the Local Government Board, he will have had his mind illumined as to many things by the discovery that for every £3 7s. spent on paupers and pauper lunatics £1—nearly a third—goes to officers in salaries, rations, and allowances. This is one of the chief reasons why we get no forrarder with the abolition of the workhouse and the workhouse system. It enshrines too many comfy billets.

Dr. Messiter, J.P., of Dudley.

Coal stealing from colliery mounds is rampant in many districts. In spite of repeated warning, poor people will not avoid the temptation, and the individual export of tipped coal spreads and spreads until it often assumes the dimensions of a village raid. All this, well known to everybody conversant with colliery districts, may be admitted; and the question which naturally follows is, How is this raiding by individual, single file, regiment, and army, to be combated? Either by colliery companies keeping guard by day and night over their coal rubbish, or by the "frightening process" of the police courts. But our idea of the frightening process is not that of Dr. M. A. Messiter, the Dudley J.P., and his colleagues. A woman charged with stealing from a mound at Park Head pit was sentenced to one month's hard labour. She pleaded to Dr. Messiter to be let off with a fine, as she had her father dying. "You should have thought of that before," was the brutal remark of the Bench. What if she *did* think of it before? What if she stole the coal to radiate from an empty grate a little warmth and comfort for her dying father?

The New Arithmetic.

This is the mildest mid-winter (wrote recently one of the weather experts) ever registered in official documents, with the sole exception of December, 1868! As winter does not begin (at least officially or meteorologically) until about December 22nd or 23rd, we confess we do not think very, very much of this expert. Still, we may confess that the seasons often seem ill-defined by the calendars. A Business Almanack would give Spring from February 15th to May 15th, Summer to August 15th, Autumn to November 15th, and the rest to the Winter of our discontent.

Still They Come!

Listen to this from the Bishop of Southwell, speaking at the North of England Education Conference at Nottingham: "Local affairs were not governed in the least by the question of who was the best man for the work, who was the man of intelligence, or even character—it was all a matter of party. He could not wonder that intellectual men were beginning to say, 'We cannot stand this.' Rather than be dragged down into these often miserable Party politics, they wash their hands of the matter and gradually withdraw from public work." Who says that the John Bull League is not "marching on"?

Sold Out.

A few days ago, one of our readers went into a Liverpool Post Office and asked for two sixpenny postal orders, his object being to enclose them with his efforts in our "Bullets" competition, but the young lady behind the grille told him she was sold out and would "not have any more until to-morrow." Perhaps the Postmaster-General will oblige by exporting a few extra six-penn'orths into Liverpool while the shooting practice is in progress.

Sacco and His Secret.

Sacco has just completed a forty-two days' fast at Kingston-on-Thames, and in order to heal the dissensions in the Unionist party on the food taxes we suggest that Mr. Bonar Law should offer him a substantial price for his secret. By the way, Sacco is reported to have married a seventeen-year-old girl on the conclusion of his fast. It is to be hoped that she will get enough to eat!

£5 for Every Week of Your Life! See page 93.

And This is the Twentieth Century!

Mr. John Burns has so many inspectors about for this, that, or some other purpose, that it is surprising that one of them has not noticed the conditions under which a labourer, named Edwards, and his wife have been sleeping on the farm—"two hundred yards from the farmhouse," to use the exact words of the reporter—of Mr. Charles Grundy, of New House, Marden, near Hereford. Edwards and his wife occupied and slept in a calves' cot, and cooked their meals in a disused blacksmith's shop. Recently returning to bed, they left a candle burning on a shelf, with the result that the man's wife was burned to death. The condition of the agricultural labourer is said to have been so much improved since the "hungry forties" that, except for this evidence, sworn to in the Coroner's Court, most people would have refused to believe it possible that such places are allowed to exist as human habitations. And this is the advance we have made in over nineteen hundred years—Christ born in a manger, and Frederick Edwards, the agricultural labourer, sleeping in a calves' cot.

Emigration and Lies.

Twenty young Englishmen were induced, not many months ago, to sign Canadian emigration contracts with a concern called the Canadian Homesteading and Bush Association, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the secretary of which appears to be the Rev. R. E. Thomas, Roland Vicarage, Morpeth. What our rev. friend is doing in this gallery we do not know. What we do know is that the Association acted in this instance for the Mackenzie, Ellis, and Wood Company, and that the contracts signed by these young men stipulated they should work for the company at twenty dollars a month when the wages for their class of work in the district were thirty dollars a month. So fearful were the agents of the company they would escape that they were "guarded every foot of the way," and claiming to have been badly treated they "have been forced to quit camp life and search for other jobs here (Prince Albert, Sask.) and elsewhere."

Intending Emigrants, Beware!

Now the Canadian Homesteading and Bush Association of Newcastle-on-Tyne is a type of society of which the intending emigrant should beware. Nothing is more likely to result in disappointment and hardship to them than to accept employment in Canada on contract made through such associations with Canadian firms of whom they know nothing whatever. In most cases, as in this one, the object is to obtain underpaid labour. It was impossible for these or any other Englishmen to live on twenty dollars a month in Prince Albert. Apart from this, when Canadians already working at thirty-five dollars learn that Englishmen have been engaged to work for less money than themselves, bad blood is at once created between them. Let our young countrymen emigrate if they will or must, but, at least, let them take care that they are not fooled and exploited in their ignorance.

Doing Themselves Well.

You may rely on it that the workhouse official will always do himself very well. The Christmas dinner of the Leeds Workhouse officials, for instance, cost seven shillings a head, but news is not forthcoming whether the Guardians there are among those teetotal Boards who deprived the inmates of their beer.

Furs—and "Pussy."

Have you noticed the large number of rewards offered for lost *black* cats? And have you noticed the quality of some of the "foxes" worn by ladies this winter?

Rabbinical Cruelty.

One of our readers (Mr. H. M Palmer), of Bridgetown, co. Cork, in writing us on the subject of the humane slaughter of animals for human food, tells us, on the authority of a large English cattle dealer, that calves are slaughtered for the food of Jews in this way: They are tied up in rows with a plank behind them so that they cannot move much, and then "a scoundrel called a Rabbi" (a phrase we think our correspondent should not have used) comes along with a large knife and cuts their throats in turn in full view of the others. They are then left to bleed to death, "the groaning and yelling they make through fear and pain being sufficient to drive anyone off his head." Of our personal knowledge we cannot say whether this is a correct statement. If it be, then we have no hesitation in agreeing with Mr. Palmer in his final observation, "I cannot see why the Jew or anybody else should be allowed to torture animals in compliance with their beliefs. While they live in a Christian civilised country they ought to be required to treat all living creatures in a humane and civilised way." The Jews, however, are undoubtedly entitled to ask a question: "Do the civilised Christians do so?"

Exeter Infirmary.

Complaints reach us that some of the patients in the Exeter Infirmary have not had their garments changed for several weeks. In one case a man has worn his woollen shirt nine weeks. After many appeals for a change, first to the head nurse and then to the nurse of his ward, he has been informed that his sanitary requirements cannot be accommodated. Surely the committee of management have not commenced their economies with the washerwoman!

Obscene Hobnails.

We have often heard a man talking through his hat, speechifying through his nose, and even framing his phrases under the soothing tutelage of a well-filled inner man—but have never had the luck to hear anyone talking through his boots. This good fortune has been reserved for a Leeds police-sergeant, who said recently of a prisoner: "We had to take his boots off, sir, because he was using obscene language." We hope the offensive understandings have had their tongues removed.

A Common Complaint—and Cure.

A contemporary in a recent issue gave the wants of "a common natural man" for the year 1913. He begins by saying that his chief desire is for more money, and he ends in the same strain. Whilst extending our sympathy to a victim of the commonest complaint with which mankind is afflicted, we are, happily, in a position to direct him to a cure. By paying Dr. "Bullets" sixpence, he may receive a prescription that may work a lasting cure: or at any rate alleviate the disease till 1914 arrives.

Remedy Worse than the Disease.

The Epping Guardians recently decided to advance sufficient money to a street musician to enable him to get his concertina out of pawn, and so keep him off the rates. For our own part, we would more willingly endure the strain of a ha'penny rate than those of an itinerant concertina merchant.

Robert Louis Stevenson on Party.

"I have always held that politics was the dirtiest, the most foolish, and the most random of human employments. I have always held, but now I know it."—(Letter to Henry James.)

Again Increased! £300 this week for a "Bullet."

"Name!"

We are disposed to mistrust the sensation about the girl who was drugged in the street by a foreign-looking man, who "flicked a chloroformed handkerchief in her face." To begin with, it is not possible to anæsthetise people so easily. Then, again, the foreign-looking man made no attempt to hustle her away in a cab and put her on board a lugger, bound for Buenos Aires. Why, then, should he have run the risk of being mistaken for a white slaver? Our advice to the girl is to read fewer novelettes in future.

Arms and the (Press) Man.

Why are certain daily papers allowed to flaunt the royal arms? They are not purveyors to the King. We remember that, at the last election, several candidates received rebukes from high quarters for taking a similar liberty. Sauce for the Party candidate should be sauce for the Party press.

"If You See It . . ."

There will be a General Election before the Home Rule Bill, or Act, becomes operative.

The Week's "Chestnut."

COUNSEL (*cross-examining sporting witness*): "Will you swear to that, sir?"

WITNESS: "Certainly, I will, but—I would'nt *bet* on it!"

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

I've got
And you've got,
In fact
We've all got,
Rag-
Time,
Yes, we've all got ragtime on the brain! (*Bong!*)
Escape
I've tried to;
Each place
I've hied to—
Rag-
Time,
Yes, ragtime's nearly driven me insane! (*Bong!*)
Dressing
I hum it,
Dining
I drum it—
Rag-
Time,
Yes, drum it with my fingers on the cloth! (*Bang!*)
I can't
Ignore it—
Sleeping
I snore it—
Rag-
Time,
Yes, snore it till my wife declares her wroth! (*Bang!*)
Is there
No place where
Ragtime
Is not there?
Rag-
Time,
Yes, ragtime with its breathless pause and jerk! (*Crash!*)
If not
I fear I,
Gasping,
Will soon die—
Rag-
Time;
Yes, ragtime will have done its fearful work! (*Crash!*)

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For advertising: "Ladies' Italian Silk Knickers made with double seats and SLIGHTLY SOILED,"
MESSRS. SELFRIDGE
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its account of an annual treat at the High-week Sunday Schools that: "Miss Marie Darbey gave a DISGRACEFUL *dance, which was* HIGHLY APPRECIATED,"
THE MID-DEVON & NEWTON TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "The EIGHTH ANNUAL *meeting of the Peace Conference was held at St. James's Palace this afternoon,"*
THE STAFFORDSHIRE SENTINEL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of a trial that a lady "was found fatally wounded IN HER BUNGALOW,"
THE STANDARD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, according to "The Bacup Times," in his address to the magistrates in a recent case that, according to the prosecution, of two men one "became like a statue, and the other became possessed of 'the WINGS OF A DEER' *and ran away,"*
MR. C. E. SUTCLIFFE (Solicitor, Rawtenstall)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For announcing: "*HUMAN HEARTS 2,000 FEET LONG, *and* EVERY INCH *is full of anger or pathos,"*
THE PROPRIETOR, DOWRY No. 1 PICTURES, (Accrington),
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For including in its list of hunting fixtures those of "The SOUTH OGFORDSHIRE FOGHOUNDS,"
THE SOUTH BUCKS FREE PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in "The Edinburgh Evening News" a "Lost, a DEEP GREEN GENTLEMAN'S *plush hat,"*
THE ADVERTISER (27, Spottiswoode Street)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its issue of January 4th that: "Two crops of fruit have been gathered THIS YEAR *from a pear tree belonging to Mr. George Mason, of Dedham, near Colchester, and the tree is* NOW IN BLOSSOM *for the* THIRD *time,"*
THE ADVOCATE (Southampton)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, according to the "Daily Express," that they represent "the principal MILK GROWERS *in Sussex,"*
THE SUSSEX DAIRY-FARMERS' ASSOCIATION
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing, in its list of "Books Received": "A Curtailed Memoir of Incidents and Occurrences in the Life of John Surman Carden, VICE-ADMIRAL OF THE BRITISH ARMY,"
THE BROAD ARROW
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

"Bullets" the Best Judged Competition.

"THE HOODED M.P." AND THE EASTBOURNE MURDER.

DECISION OF THE SPEAKER—PRIVATE M.P.'S EFFORT TO RAISE QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

As announced last week, we forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Commons a sealed envelope containing the name of the Member of Parliament who we allege is of such depraved habits as to be unfit for the society of decent men, and who is intimately associated with a gang of disreputable individuals who, in turn, were associates of the Eastbourne murderer, Williams. The following is the Editor's letter to Mr. Lowther :—

> SIR,—For some weeks past we have been publishing a series of articles in which it has been my painful duty to have to suggest that a member of the House of Commons has for several years been associated, for immoral purposes, with a gang of depraved youths, to whom, and to the friends of whom, he has paid large sums of money with the object of avoiding public exposure. Realising the gravity of this allegation, I have felt it my duty to disclose to you, as the guardian of the honour of the House, the identity of the member in question—whose name I beg to hand you, herewith, in a sealed envelope, to be opened or otherwise dealt with, as you may deem right.
>
> Meanwhile, I am at the disposal of either yourself, or the House, or any Committee thereof.

And the following is the reply which we received :—

> I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day enclosing a sealed envelope. On consideration I do not think that I ought to open it, and I accordingly return it to you unopened.
>
> The House of Commons has the power to deal with its members, but I have no such power, and it does not appear that any useful purpose would be served by my opening the envelope and reading its contents.

Now, by common consent, the present occupant of the Chair is the strongest Speaker of modern times, and although we felt that, having regard to the publicity which has been given to our charges, the honour of the House of Commons was seriously impugned, our respect for the judgment of Mr. Lowther is such that we do not doubt the wisdom and correctness of his decision. Be it noted, however, that he does not in any way rule that the matter is one outside the purview of the House. There is, indeed, some significance in his words—"The House of Commons has the power to deal with its members, but *I* have no such power."

Private Member's Efforts.

We mentioned last week that it was the intention of a private member to endeavour to raise the question as one of privilege, and on receipt of the Speaker's letter we had an interview with Mr. Handel Booth, M.P., in regard to the matter—handing him the sealed envelope containing the name of the member in question, and leaving it to his discretion to read it to the House. Mr. Booth thereupon consulted the Speaker, and he subsequently addressed to us the following letter :—

> I spoke to the Speaker, who had already seen your issue of to-day's JOHN BULL. In his view the matter cannot be raised as a matter of privilege because no member is named, and secondly, because you refer in JOHN BULL to pending legal proceedings. He advised me not to open the envelope marked "*name of M.P.*," but to follow his example in returning it, which I hereby do.
>
> I need scarcely add that the honour of this House is of priceless value and your statements are of the greatest importance.

In these circumstances we have to consider our position, which has been growing more difficult and delicate from day to day.

THE EASTBOURNE MURDER.

SHOULD WILLIAMS HANG?

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

Geo. Williams has failed in his appeal. I doubt, however, that he will be hanged. I will go further, and state he should not be. When a man is convicted of a capital offence on circumstantial evidence, such evidence should be of the strongest possible nature. Moreover, the character of persons giving evidence against the accused should be such as can be relied upon.

Had Williams not been "hooded," very little interest would have been taken in the case. To the average man in the street there is no mystery about it. It is simply the case of a burglar surprised. Quite a commonplace affair. But to those in the know there is much mystery in the case.

Unsatisfactory Evidence.

Now let us look into the circumstances of the case. George Williams, as I have reason to know, is an expert burglar. This is known to the police and to myself, but not to the general public. The murder occurred at No. 6, South Cliff Avenue, Eastbourne, the residence of Countess Sztaray, who on the evening of October 9th intended to dine with a friend at the Burlington Hotel. They were to be driven there by a cabman named Potter. While waiting outside the house, Potter noticed a man crouching on the portico over the door, and after driving some distance, he mentioned the fact to the Countess and her friend. They returned to the house and rang up the police. Inspector Walls arrived on the scene about 7.40, and seeing the man on the portico, shouted, "Come down, old chap." The "old chap" replied by firing two shots, one of which killed the Inspector. When the first shot was fired, Potter whipped up his horse and bolted.

Potter *could not identify the man*, but swore he wore a "trilby" hat. *Neither the Countess nor her friend could identify the man.* Percy Moss, a fly proprietor, who was on the scene of the murder shortly after it happened, *picked up a "trilby" hat some few yards away.* Arthur Chase stated that just before the murder he *saw a woman pottering about near South Cliff Avenue, and he thought it was Miss Seymour*, the girl with whom prisoner was living. Mrs. Mann, the prisoner's landlady, said she let her rooms on the morning of the murder, and in the evening *the prisoner returned home in a very excited condition.* So much for the night of the crime.

The Revolver Incident.

A great point was made at the trial that Williams had a revolver which he buried on the beach. In my opinion it was one of the weakest links in the chain of circumstantial evidence. Surely if Williams had committed the murder he would have flung the revolver into the sea, and so got rid of it altogether. Undoubtedly known to the police, he was naturally desirous of getting rid of it.

Cracksman or Crackpot?

I have stated that Williams is an expert cracksman! But if we are to believe the evidence, he must be an unsophisticated crackpot! He sets out to commit a burglary at 7 o'clock in the evening, when there would

be plenty of people about; gets on a portico while a light is burning in the bedroom of the Countess, takes his girl with him practically to see him do the job, watches the cab drive off with the Countess, waits for its return, and, childlike, also waits until the Countess rings up the police; and then when the Inspector arrives on the scene shoots him dead Nor is that all. In escaping, he loses his hat and arrives home in a very excited condition!

At this juncture, I would say that if it were Williams who lay on that portico on the night of October 9th, he must have gone there with the deliberate intention of supplying the most conclusive evidence possible against himself. In short, he was a very amateur burglar. Let us come to the other portions of the evidence. The prisoner's brother received a letter on the morning of the 10th, asking him to proceed to Eastbourne and get him out of a difficulty.

Judas as Crown Witness.

This letter was shown to the man Power, who was living in the same house as prisoner's brother—and who was a professed friend. The brothers Williams returned to London; *Power remained with the girl Seymour, and before returning to London with her, that same evening, made a communication to the Chief Constable at Eastbourne.* Keep the italics in mind. On arrival in London, Power took the girl Seymour to a hotel, and then met the brothers Williams in a buffet at Westminster Bridge. According to Power, a good deal of horseplay occurred, and *Williams admitted firing the fatal shot.* This, of course, is damning evidence. It is, however, denied both by prisoner and his brother. Subsequently Williams was arrested by Inspector Bower, Power admitting in cross-examination that he had been communicating with that officer. Judas the principal witness for the Crown! And how did the police present this witness to the Judge and Jury? Let me quote from a newspaper report. "Edgar Power, a medical student, is a dapper, pleasant faced young man. His black hair was neatly parted down the middle, and a smile hovered on his dark, clean shaven face." No doubt just the sort of gentleman who would inspire confidence in the minds of the Jury. He stated in his evidence that he had known Williams two months. Now let us again point out to the authorities the real character of their principal witness.

His real name is Duncan Brady. He is a married man—married in the name of Power—living apart from his wife. He has two children born in wedlock, and several others, the offspring of young girls he has ruined, in each case representing himself to be a single man, and promising marriage. Under the name of Duncan Brady, he has served several terms of imprisonment. His father was a chemist, and here, probably, is where he obtained his knowledge of drugs. He is an expert at passing forged cheques. While living at Harringay he received six months' imprisonment for stealing a cycle and pawning it.

In 1906 a man named Lewis was arrested on a charge of cashing a worthless cheque. He was tried for the offence, convicted, and sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. Later Brady was arrested for passing other forged cheques, whereupon he stated that he had received the forms on which these were written from the man already convicted, and endeavoured to implicate him. At the magisterial investigation, however, Lewis was proved to be entirely innocent—whereupon Brady pleaded guilty and confessed.

For the purpose of making one coup Power—or Brady—in March last again christened himself and masqueraded as a money-lender. He forged three promissory notes for a large sum, purporting to be signed by an M.P. who was in the clutches of a gang of blackmailers. When the Bills became "due," he wrote, as the money-lender, to the unhappy victim, demanding payment. On receiving a denial of the genuineness of the documents, he issued a writ. And this was the principal witness for the Crown in a matter of life and death! No person's life is safe when the police will place before a Judge and Jury evidence from such a man as Power, without disclosing the character of the witness.

I must for a brief moment touch upon another adjunct of the murder case. Power stated that he had known Williams for two months. We may take the statement as being fairly accurate, but he lost no time in making use of the convicted man. I quote from our issue of January 4th:—

> Power, passing as a medical man, was supposed to be in possession of certain knowledge affecting some associates of the member in question, which could be known to a medical man only. Roughly, then, Power's scheme was as follows:—He, Williams, and a third associate, were to proceed to the M.P.'s house. Williams was to pose as another medical man—"Dr. Scott"; while the third visitor was to represent himself as being a well-known solicitor. The game was to be for high stakes. Power's idea was that they should demand a sum of £50,000 in return for getting certain people out of the country, and thus once and for all stop them blackmailing the M.P. further. Williams did not like the game, and openly stated his objection.

The name of the third individual was Arthur Baun, the man who was convicted at the London Sessions a few days ago for theft His sentence was three years' penal servitude and deportation.

An Unfortunate "Defender."

Now for another individual in the case. On January 15th a man was charged at Marlborough Street Police Court, under the name of David Watson, with being concerned in receiving stolen goods belonging to Messrs. Liberty. Libertys' solicitor stated that Watson called upon him and stated his name was Ian Maynell, that he was an enquiry agent, and that his special work was to recover stolen property for the police. He went even so far as to give the name of Chief Inspector Bower and other C.I.D. men as references. As he is on remand we need say no more about him other than that he is the individual who imposed upon the solicitor charged with the defence of the man convicted for the Eastbourne murder, and it was to this fact we referred when we made the statement in a recent issue that "in the haste and confusion of the trial it happened that the conduct of the defence got largely into the hands of an individual whose selection for the work was most unfortunate."

To return to the evidence in the murder trial. Prisoner admitted he was a burglar, and that he knew a gang of thieves was in Eastbourne. Those thieves have never been found, nor have they ever been looked for, so far as I can ascertain. Evidence was also given about certain men who drove away in a motor car. The driver of the car swore to the incident, but Inspector Bower, in his evidence, could not say who the passengers were. This is surely important when a man's life is at stake.

Then as regards the evidence of Florence Seymour—perhaps the most important of all—I have sworn testimony in my possession which goes to show that the police methods in this case savour more of the Inquisition than anything I have read of in modern times. As a final word, I urge that a full public enquiry should at once be held into the circumstances of the conduct of the case by the police.

Forms of petition for the reprieve of Williams may be obtained from his solicitor, Mr W. H. Speed, 18, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, W., or they may be signed by callers at that address. We understand it is the intention of the condemned man's advisers to apply to the Attorney-General for his fiat, which is necessary before going to the House of Lords on certain questions of law.

SIR PERCY SCOTT—BART.?

AS APPRAISED BY HIS SUBORDINATES.

Out of the batch of letters which our recent paragraph on Sir Percy Scott has called forth, we select the following :—

The mother of our First Lord might give you some particulars as to this new baronet, as he was hanging round the hospital ship *Maine* when in the port of Durban. At that time I was told by a naval officer that Percy Scott was known throughout the Navy as a 'picker' of other men's brains; this was in reference to a conversation about the gun carriages used at Ladysmith, and I think if you applied to the Natal Government railway workshops, Durban, they would inform you to whom the real credit should belong for designing and making these carriages."

From an Ex-Royal Marine.

"I feel it my duty, as an ex-Royal Marine, to endorse your statements about Sir Percy Scott. To think that he, above the many Admirals, Captains, etc., who would be more deserving and who have done good service to their country, should have been the only naval man mentioned in the New Year Honours' list! Pooh! Ask any gunnery man in the Navy about him, and I am open to say that not one would give him a good name. They who know him would tell you that none of the things that he is credited with doing or inventing has he really done—only he got the praise! Take the 4.7 gun carriage that was used at Ladysmith. It was made by the armourer's crew aboard H.M.S. *Terrible*. Also his world-famed 'Dotter'; *that* was invented by a gunner at Whale Island (H.M.S. *Excellent*). But Scott got the praise for making it—he even went so far as to have his daughter christened Dotter Scott. Then, again, I knew a seaman gunner who, while at Whale Island, invented a 'night sight' for guns. This wonderful invention was shown to Percy Scott, who had the audacity to offer the man £5 for it. Needless to say, the inventor refused. Later, he was sent away from Whale Island on to a foreign station, but I believe he was bought out of the Navy by Vickers, Maxim and Co., who gave him £5,000 for his invention and a commission on all they sold. Then, again, look at Percy Scott's contemptuous remarks when Lord Charles Beresford made the signal to paint ship to receive His Majesty at Portland.

"Why was he not court-martialled like any other officer would have been? No, Percy knew that his friend, 'Jacky Fisher,' was at the head of the Admiralty, and Percy was one of his chief satellites. As you say, he is a jealous, narrow-minded person; he never was a friend to the men of the lower deck, which is a great mistake.

On another page we call attention to the fact that, up to the time of going to press no reply has been received by us to the serious allegations against Sir Percy Scott which we made in our last issue.

DONCASTER DULLARDS.

LITERARY PEARLS REJECTED BY LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The other day a member of the Doncaster Corporation Free Library Committee took home with him a copy of Fielding's "Tom Jones," to read for the first time. It had such an extraordinary effect upon his feelings—he apparently being a man built that way—that he had no choice but to pronounce it immoral, and took the first opportunity to propose a resolution in Committee that the book should be burned, whether by the common hangman or the library charwoman we are not in a position to say. To the everlasting ridicule of Doncaster, this astounding resolution was passed and carried into effect—"Tom Jones," one of the brightest stars in the galaxy of immortal English novels, being consigned to the devouring flames. What an exposure of the unhealthy state of mind of the majority who sanctioned such an act of vicious vandalism! We wonder whether the local gentleman who, when Mayor, would not meet King Edward on the Corporation Racecourse, took any part in the proceedings. By the way, what a rush there will be on all the Doncaster booksellers for copies of "Tom Jones"!

A VERY HUMAN DOCUMENT.

TRAMP—AND GENTLEMAN!

We have received the subjoined letter, which we publish for its human interest. It will be observed that the writer declines assistance, but we have asked him to come and see us. Should he do so, and the facts of his case prove to be as stated, we feel it would be a source of pleasure to some of our readers to help to give him a fresh start in life :—

SIR,—Allow me to wish you and your paper a happy and prosperous new year. I wish I could look forward with the same degree of optimism as yourself, but I cannot. I have had hell upon earth these last six months of the old year, that moral courage to strive and strive again is past me. I am no longer young. I don't know why I tell you this, except that I feel I can talk to you—through the post—I, now a tramp, for whose garments your office-boy would not give a sixpence. And yet I have not always been what I now am.

Drink? Not much—at least, not in the light that those canting Salvationists look at it. Women? God help me, but I hate the sight of them. I was once married and, as friends told me, "happily." I had a good home and two of the finest chicks a man could want—a boy and a girl. Then a brute came along. He took my wife and children and home from me, and I, poor damned wretch, have mourned. He buried my wife and children at Lagos, West Africa. All that happened twenty years ago. I cursed God and humanity, and went abroad. I returned last August, and lost the few pounds I had seeking her and them. Now I am a tramp. Can you understand why the new year and subsequent years have no attraction for me? I think you can, for you are a man of deep feeling.

I have come here hoping I may be able to earn a few shillings teaching French and Italian. I seek no charity. Don't publish this letter or place me among your human documents. I would rather drop dead than beg a penny. Wise? Yes, I think so.

I got your paper some years ago. It was in Paris, and I have read it pretty well every year since, and the funny part of it all is I have to make up a profit and loss account each week now to see whether I can go a penny for it. JOHN BULL, an ounce of tobacco and a clean bed to lie in are all I hope for now. Yes, I am a gentleman, and trust to remain so until the end of my unhappy existence.

CARLISLE'S CHIEF CONSTABLE CASHIERED.

SEQUEL TO OUR RECENT DISCLOSURES.

Five months ago we directed public attention to the allegation by a local firm of motor-car manufacturers that Mr. George Hill, Chief Constable of Carlisle, had brought an unfounded charge of obstruction against them (in the course of which he made insinuations of a serious character reflecting upon one of their officials) because they had refused him the gratuitous use of their vehicles—pointing out the unsatisfactory nature of the result and urging the Watch Committee, in the interests of the City, to require the local head of police to institute either a prosecution of the manager of the Company for perjury or an action for libel. Despite the imperative necessity for immediate action, matters dragged on—the Chief Constable alternately bluffing, shuffling, and funking. First he protested that the allegations were fabrications and that he would meet them. Then he made a report to the Watch Committee which would have succeeded in its object of whitewashing him if we had not intervened. Subsequently the Council, acting apparently on our suggestion, gave him a chance of clearing himself by means of an action for slander. Now, afraid of meeting his accuser in a law court, he wanted to slink out of his tight corner by being allowed to resign on the plea of ill-health. Happily for the good name of the Carlisle police force, the Watch Committee have come to realise what is demanded by their public duty. Mr. Hill has had his white man's chance, and if in the sense of the allegory he were a white man, he would have taken it. Not having done so, he has only himself to blame for the invidious position in which he finds himself.

Mr. Hill has received three months' salary in lieu of notice. The payment even of this sum would seem on the face of it to be unnecessary, but, of course, there may be circumstances which render it desirable that clemency should be extended.

£5 a Week for Life for Results of only 20 Matches.——

PAUPERISING THE SOLDIER.

PROTEST FROM "TOMMY ATKINS."

Soldiers are forbidden by the King's Regulations to write to the press, but a number of them have defied those regulations and sent us letters of protest with reference to an appeal for £1,500 issued in *The Record* for the Church of England Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, North Camp, Aldershot.

The displayed advertisement sets forth that the Hon. Secretary is the Rev. J. Stott, Chaplain to H.M. Forces, and some of the reasons given why subscriptions should be forwarded are: "Because one thousand soldiers use the Institute every day;" "because it brings the Chaplain into personal touch with 'Tommy Atkins';" "because 'Tommy Atkins' asks you;" and, finally, "because hundreds of mothers of sick soldiers have had to be refused beds because we had not the accommodation."

Now a Chaplain, above all other persons, should be strictly accurate. We put it to the Rev. Secretary that one thousand soldiers do not use the Institute every day; that "Tommy Atkins" has not asked the public to subscribe; and that, for issuing the advertisement encouraging him to do so, he should be tried by court martial as he is inciting the soldier to act contrary to King's Regulations. As regards "hundreds of mother of sick soldiers being refused beds," we have definite information that during the past four years not more than a hundred serious cases of illness have been admitted into the Aldershot Hospitals. Perhaps Mr. Stott will look up his statistics again.

Knowing the soldier as we do, we can fully appreciate his disgust at an appeal of this sort. We offer the opinion that if Soldiers' Homes are a necessity, they ought to provide them themselves. If their pay is insufficient for the purpose, it should be increased.

In a special paragraph, Mr. Stott says: "The advent of Soldiers' Institutes have increased the opportunities of the Chaplain tenfold." Opportunities for what? The answer of the rev. gentleman is that the public can hardly appreciate the difficulty a soldier has to face when he becomes a seeker after religion. We don't believe it. Soldiers do not compare unfavourably with civilians in such matters. We are prepared to bet Mr. Stott a silk hat that any soldier so inclined could kneel down beside his cot in a barrack room containing a dozen ruffians and he would suffer no interference. We will go farther and state that he would be respected by his comrades for his courage, and possibly make some converts. What "Tommy" hates, however, is the "superior" soldier who apes the Christian by attending Bible classes by night and acting the part of a sneak by day. In civilian life, it is not the most religious man or woman who attends church or chapel, nor is it necessarily the most religious—or the best—soldier who frequents the Bible classes held at the Soldiers' Institute.

DIGNITY AND LABOUR.

FROM AN ENGINEERS' DELEGATE.

Extract from the *Daily Telegraph*:—"The Executive of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers were ejected from the Society's offices by certain members."

They rushed us. They forced us down the staircase into the council room. We ordered our men to keep their tempers. As we had got to be dignified we were dignified. Four of our Council were rolled down twenty dignified stone steps. Mr. W. P. Kelly was one of them; he was in a dignified dazed condition. Mr. Jas. Butt had the same dignified fate—lost several teeth and has a scarred face. Mr. Haslam, also with dignity, went down the stairs with an injured shoulder, and Mr. J. J. Stephenson now limps with dignity and an injured leg. Mr. A. Taylor, the Chairman, without any dignity, ordered the offices to be closed.

We do not intend to take any police-court proceedings, as it is purely a matter between ourselves, and we have our dignity to preserve.

AN IMPERTINENT INQUISITION.

FENTON VICAR'S GROSS INSULT TO YOUNG COUPLES.

From all parts of the country, and particularly from his own parish, we have received indignant protests against the announcement by the Rev. C. R. Cotter, Vicar of Fenton, Staffs., that in the future banns of marriage must be handed to him personally at the Vicarage, as he intends "to deal with that class of wedding which is unfortunately so prevalent in Fenton"—of cases "where there has been sin before marriage"—"cases for the registry office, unless there is evidence of real penitence which will satisfy the Church," as "the sacrament of marriage was not instituted to whitewash sin." This type of announcement is by no means new, however. Other clerical formularians—who know no charity and little tolerance, and believe it is a greater and a holier thing that the Church should ban than bless, punish than forgive—have wilfuly shut their ears to the lesson of the Magdalene and declared their intention of shutting the doors of the church against such marriages, unless the parties to them first submitted to the ordeal of the confessional and the inquisition. It is not sufficient that a wrong is to be righted, that reparation is to be made, that a woman is to be saved from shame, and an unborn child from stigma. No; priests of the type of the Vicar of Fenton turn away. They have no blessing and no forgiveness. If the law of the land were not mightier than the law of the priest, these people who have "sinned" would not be permitted to marry at all. They would not be able to fly from the Church to the registry office. The child would be born in "sin." The mother would be cast out to bear alone the whole burden of her shame. And all this Mr. Cotter would justify as religion, as Christianity, as the Church's office. Is it any wonder that the Church has lost influence on the heart and conscience and reason of the nation?

Prospective brides and bridegrooms in Fenton, who desire that their marriages should be celebrated in their parish church, are now to be cross-examined at the Vicarage—with Mr. Cotter as Grand Inquisitor, to enquire into all their acts. The natural result will be that decent men and women will not consent to undergo the gross indignity of answering the prying and insulting questions and to submit impassively to the searching and suggestive inspection which the fulfilment of the Vicar's self-appointed function necessarily involves. They will give Mr. Cotter a wide berth, not only at the Vicarage but at the altar as well. Apart even from the registry office, there are other ministers of the Gospel who will marry them *sans* so embarrassing an ordeal.

£5 A WEEK FOR LIFE.

BIGGEST PRIZE EVER OFFERED.

This week we are affording our readers an opportunity of winning the biggest prize ever offered in any Competition. For forecasting the results of 20 football matches we offer the enormous prize of a PENSION OF £5 PER WEEK FOR LIFE. A little football knowledge and a few strokes of the pen can place you for ever beyond the reach of want and care. This is a chance our readers cannot afford to miss. There are no entrance fees and no goals to be given. All you have to do is to fill up the form on page 93, and send it to us. If you succeed in correctly forecasting the 20 matches given, you will receive the pension prize. If it should happen that no competitor is sufficiently skilful to do so, a prize of £500 in cash will, IN ANY EVENT, be awarded to the competitor sending most correct results. *Abandoned matches will not matter; the £5 a week for life will be awarded to any reader correctly forecasting the matches actually played.*

We are making a special feature of the checking of this Competition, and by our carefully thought-out system of examining every entry received it is quite impossible for any winning effort to be overlooked. This undoubtedly constitutes the biggest and most sensational prize offer ever made by any periodical—and we invite all our readers to have a try. Send in your coupons EARLY.

—Abandoned Matches make no Difference!

"THE MISHAP TO THE 'NARRUNG.'"

P. AND O. COMPANY ADOPT OUR SUGGESTION.

The public will be relieved to hear that the P. and O. Company, acting upon the suggestion contained in our recent article, are withdrawing the old *Narrung* from their passenger-carrying service. There is little doubt that had the vessel been built upon the top-heavy lines of the ill-fated *Waratah*, she also would have "turned turtle." Another ship, the *Beacon Grange*, one of the best-built steamers afloat, which also encountered these awful seas, is lying at Southampton as badly damaged as the *Narrung*, though little has been heard of her adventures because she carried no passengers. It is obvious, therefore, that in bringing the old *Narrung* safely into port, her captain performed no mean feat of seamanship.

Our article has naturally brought us a considerable amount of correspondence, from which it is evident that persons booking in the P. and O. "branch service," to which the *Narrung* belonged, generally do so in the belief that they are going to travel in one of the ships specially built for the Company. This is not so, as the old Blue Anchor Line, which owned the *Narrung*, was purchased by the P. and O. Company after the *Waratah* disaster in order to carry on this class of trade.

The Surveyors of the Marine Department of the Board of Trade are, it is apparent, much to blame for passing flimsy temporary 'tween-deck fittings as proper accommodation for passengers travelling long distances. In some cases these are merely rough wood and are put up by cheap contractors at so much per head. The majority of passengers to the Antipodes have to submit to such rough accommodation. On completion of the outward voyage the partitions are quickly knocked down and the space used on the homeward trip for cargo. The Board of Trade should insist on passengers being informed at the time of booking of the kind of accommodation they will obtain, even if they allow such conditions to exist. The regular liners built specially for the emigration trade have, of course, much better accommodation, but so many persons are eager to get to Australia just now that quite unsuitable vessels are being pressed into the service, the result being that we receive many grumbles. Only a short time ago, on her arrival, one of these boats was found to have on board many cases of measles, due to defective accommodation.

In regard to the *Narrung's* abortive voyage, a well-informed correspondent suggests that the captain when he encountered the gale, and knowing the terrible discomfort and suffering of his passengers, should have put into Plymouth or Southampton, and so at once relieved them from their very unpleasant position. His failure to do this, however, was doubtless an error of judgment, and in no way due to the fact that by bringing the vessel back to London he saved his owners a considerable sum of money for general average and other expenses.

UP-TO-DATE ADVERTISING.

VICTIMISING SHOPKEEPERS.

On Friday last one of our readers paid a visit to Messrs. Ponting's sale at Kensington, and purchased some gloves. On returning home and opening the parcel, she found hidden in one of them a most objectionable advertisement—such an advertisement, in fact, as would not be inserted in any decent newspaper. Without quoting the whole of it, we may mention that it referred to a Bristol woman, named Fisher, who states she is prepared to give personal attention to "ladies' ailments." In a matter of this kind no blame can be attached to Messrs. Ponting; they were doubtless deceived regarding the respectability and trustworthiness of one of the girls they employed as an extra hand at sale time. To our certain knowledge, it is one of the tricks of the White Slave traffickers to get a decoy into an establishment where a number of girls are employed, in order to find recruits for a profitable market. For the guidance of Messrs. Ponting and in order to remove suspicion from innocent quarters, we may say that the purchase in question was made at an improvised counter in the centre of the shop.

LABOUR EXCHANGE SLAVES.

"REFRESHING" PLUMS BESTOWED UPON FAVOURITES.

A provincial reader confirms what we have already published regarding the conditions of work and pay at many of the Labour Exchanges, and appeals to us to keep on hammering away at the authorities until we obtain some alleviation of the grievous lot of the poor employees. He tells us he entered the service two years ago, and although nominally classed as a registration clerk, in fact acts as chief clerk, and this for the munificent salary of £70 a year. His branch is a very important one, within an area teeming with working-class people, the attention to the demands of whom involves an enormous amount of labour. Originally, there were three members of the staff, two clerks and a manager, but one of the former has been promoted and is now getting elsewhere a manager's salary—£110. Our friend, shortly after his colleague left, received four months after it was due the scale increase in salary of £5, and is now doing the work of the transferred man besides much of that which should fall to his chief—interviewing multitudinous callers, making up the official reports, and generally running the show. The manager has written repeatedly to headquarters, pointing out the shortage in staff, but receives merely formal acknowledgments and polite assurances that the matter is not being overlooked. During the Insurance rush our friend's burdened back was called upon to bear a further heavy load, as he had to superintend the temporary clerks, and worked day after day from 8 a.m. to midnight, then having to cycle several miles home. As we have already mentioned, the miserable overtime granted for this extraordinary labour was not paid by the Treasury until three months after it was earned.

Respectful applications to superiors, pointing out the legitimate claims to promotion of such hard workers, are now met with the stereotyped piece of bluff that every consideration will be given when a suitable vacancy arises.

The thousands who responded to the official advertisements for clerks for the Insurance Offices and Labour Exchanges were informed that they would be required to pass an examination, but in most cases, we are told, no test whatever was imposed upon the appointed men, who came from behind shop-counters and all kinds of odd places to fill positions in Exchanges at £90 to £110—being placed over the heads of the old staff who had earned promotion. In some instances, mere boys were thus brought into the service, their chagrined "inferiors" being supposed to place freely at their service the fruits of their long experience.

OUR NATIONAL RESERVE.

AGED 70—ADDRESS, THE WORKHOUSE.

If ever the National Reserve are called upon for service, one point is quite clear—we shall be able to get rid of a good many of our workhouse inmates. Some few days ago, a man, 70 years of age but looking 80, and walking with the aid of a stick, called upon us and made a complaint that he was being pitchforked from one workhouse to another—the authorities being at loggerheads, seemingly, as to which was his native parish. He served in the Army as long ago as 1866, and was, he informed us, about to join the National Reserve. Being sceptical as to whether he would be accepted, we advised him to call upon us again when he had accomplished his object. This he has done, and we now hold his papers. Not once, but a score of times, have we stigmatised the National Reserve as a fraud and a farce. We now suggest to the Secretary of State for War that it should be disbanded. Perhaps the most amazing part of the whole business is that with regard to this force it is especially laid down in Regulations that there is "No age limit," and yet the object of the body is stated by the War Office to be for service in the field in case of emergency! We wonder what service our poor visitor could render in such an emergency; his hard life has enfeebled his frame even more than his three score years and ten, and with his bent back, his beard reaches down to his knees!

£5 for Every Week of Your Life! See page 93.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

Whence grows the banana and gushes the rum,
Sir Sydney Olivier shortly will come—
Socialist, poet, musician—to be
Agriculture's new Permanent Secretaree!
The Farming fraternity grin at the news
And say, "Well, I'm danged—what a fum' un to choose!"

Despite the attacks of the Carmelite press,
Which Bonar Law's leadership sought to suppress
The Tory M.P.'s in a body unite,
And a very nice note to their leader indite;
And the *Daily Mail* promptly endorses their Act,
And loudly acclaims him it lately attacked!

Revoking its premature promise of Spring,
The New Year proceeds to prove how it can sting;
With winds from the East it nips noses and ears
And wrings from the eyes of the hardiest, tears;
While Strephon, who started out Chloe to meet,
Turns his back to the blast and confesses defeat.

Compelled by his Party to play the old game,
McKenna opposes the poor curates' claim.
"Your rights may be moral," said he, in effect,
"But, nevertheless, your appeal I reject;
Though cold and starvation your lot, I submit
That the curate should suffer is proper and fit."

Where prisoners often assemble in droves,
They'd nothing on hand but a pair of white gloves;
And the Mayor, and the Clerk, and the usher unite
In expressing their mingled surprise and delight.
But on each detective's and constable's face
There rested a cloud—for they hadn't a "case"!

A race for a bride is an incident rare,
And a compliment not often paid to the fair;
The victor we hail—a thing proper to do,
And the vanquished may count on our sympathy, too;
But we'd much like to ask, if it's not indiscreet,
How would things have panned out had there been a dead heat?

BLAKE'S BUNKUM.

MORE ABOUT THE COMPETITION CROOK.

Our exposure last week of the unfounded claim of R. H. Blake and Co., 51, Gurney Street, Walworth, to have evolved the "Bullet" which gained the first prize of £200 in our No. 9 Competition, has brought us some interesting correspondence from persons who have been favoured with the firm's attention. In a circular letter dated October 24th last, Blake discourses at great length upon the alleged advantages of joining a "special pool," to complete which he required another thirty persons. He expresses himself as absolutely "certain" of taking the first big prize every week, but his letter shows that he is possessed of scarcely the rudiments of education—one of his fearful and unintelligible sentences containing no less than 256 words—and he is therefore quite incompetent to aid competitors. He offers, if required, to return the 5s. which his clients pay him, but assures them that this they will not ask him to do, as they will be winning every week 17s. at least, if not the premier prize! Such philanthropists as Blake are indeed rare—and should be rarer, for they ought to be accommodated at the public expense.

A "SOUVENIR" FOR THE ELECTROPHONE.

HOW A SUBSCRIBER KEEPS HIS MEMORY GREEN.

We recently described the disgust of one of the private subscribers to the Electrophone on being informed that his service would be temporarily discontinued, so that he would be unable to hear Mr. Bonar Law's Albert Hall speech, the Company having upon that occasion arranged to transfer all their lines to the newspapers. This subscriber has now forwarded us a card he has received, "With the Compliments of the Season," bearing the words: "If you approve of a New Year's Souvenir being made to the Electrophone Operators, please post the attached before January 15th. No appreciation should exceed 5s." The appended form is addressed to a bank and bears convenient spaces for the amount of the donation to the "Staff Fund" and the name and address of the giver. Although an envelope was thoughtfully enclosed to convey the postal order to the right quarter, our correspondent has not sent any souvenir—probably thinking that the operators would need nothing to keep his memory green were they informed of the remarks he made when told that the particular services for which he paid were, under the authority of an obscure paragraph in his agreement, to be withheld from him.

Again Increased! £300 this week for a "Bullet."

THE NORTH BRITISH ACADEMY.

ITS PROPRIETOR GIVES THE GAME AWAY.

Our recent criticisms of and comments upon the North British Academy, Newcastle, have resulted in an interchange of correspondence between ourselves and Mr. Morgan's solicitors. These gentlemen have throughout been perfectly candid and courteous, but we are afraid that it is quite impossible for us to comply with their demand that we should tender Mr. Morgan an apology. In their first letter they incidentally admitted that our guess as to the identity of the proprietor of the Academy was accurate. Apparently, the only reason Mr. Morgan can give for adopting the extraordinary course of running as a private enterprise what its literature would lead one to believe was a national concern, is that, "it being constituted a Proprietary Club, there was no need to make it a limited liability company." Mr. Morgan, too, does not regard as misleading his description of himself as "Honorary Secretary and Curator," seemingly holding that, though the Academy is his sole property, "it is practically carried on as a non-Proprietary Club. All its funds (except his remuneration as Curator—a remuneration so modest as not to incur any Income Tax liability) are devoted to the purposes of the Academy, and not a penny profit does he take beyond that small remuneration. Legally, it is probable that he has the right to take that profit, but it is a fact vouched for in the books of account that he has never done so." The amount Mr. Morgan chooses to pay himself as salary has, of course, little bearing upon the matter, as he is entitled absolutely to any goodwill, reserve fund, or other property which may be accumulated.

A Distinction without a Difference.

To our minds, it is mere sophistry on his part to endeavour to distinguish parts of his services *to himself* as honorary and remunerated, respectively, and this distinction is certainly calculated to give a wrong impression—despite his solicitors' statement that "all the members have been informed that the Academy is a Proprietary Club vested in him." Indeed, we think the natural conclusion which members would draw from Mr. Morgan's description of himself as "Honorary Secretary and Curator," in conjunction with the euphemistic phrase regarding the ownership of the Club, is that its property is vested in him merely in the technical legal sense as trustee, and not that it is his own, out and out, to be disposed of as he pleases. In this connection, it is very difficult to believe that the distinguished gentlemen whose names are published as honorary officials can be aware that they are standing as sponsors for a private venture of Mr. Morgan's. That enterprising gentleman, however, probably shares our view that were he to describe himself more boldly and more accurately on his various publications as proprietor, his property in the concern would soon be valueless.

A flat denial is given to our allegation that, despite the statement that "only artists whose work is known to be good enough are invited to join the N.B.A.," invitations to join are not confined to artists at all. We have, however, conclusive evidence establishing this.

A Secretive Secretary.

Regarding the knowledge of members of the profit Mr. Morgan makes out of the Academy and what that amount has been in the past, the proprietor seems rather shy, stating merely that the books are open at all times to the inspection of members—which, of course, entails in most cases a long journey which might be fruitless, as Mr. Morgan might refuse inspection to a chartered accountant, in the event of the member being unversed in financial affairs.

Another point upon which Mr. Morgan was good enough to endeavour to satisfy us was regarding the reason for the absence of the usual Hanging Committee, stating: "Members constitute their own Hanging Committee by selecting their best work only for exhibition; they are upon their honour to do this and have never failed in it." We notice that the figure placed by the artists of "high standard of excellence" upon their "best work" is usually about £5 5s., there being, in the catalogue before us, many offers of sale at considerably lower prices, such as 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., £1 1s., £1 10s., £2, and £2 2s.—such valuations apparently including the frames!

ENGLISH GIRLS IN CANADA.

A VILE SLANDER.

Dr. E. C. Sparrow, of the Junior Imperial Migration Committee, London, after a tour of three or four months in Canada, months which must have been spent for the most part in travelling, seeing that he covered such a great deal of ground, has returned to England and made scandalous statements against the moral character of English girls who have emigrated there. We are well aware that the charge had been made by some unscrupulous Canadians of the ultra-Puritan type, and by not less unscrupulous employers who revenge their own bad blood on the character and reputation of their English servants, but we should not have thought that an Englishman, as we understand Dr. Sparrow to be, would have joined in such atrocious calumnies. He describes Canadian women as "smart," and he sets them on a pedestal high above our English sisters. Though we have nothing to say against Canadian women, we protest that for pure womanhood the English girl, whether in Canada or anywhere else, is the unchallengeable equal of the women around her. We will not discuss whether she is always an emigrant suitable to the harsh and crude and strange surroundings in which she so frequently finds herself in Canada, but we will not scruple to say that to allege she is unpopular because she is bad is to say what is not true.

And we would ask Dr. Sparrow to prove that the authorities for his allegations are those he claims. He quotes Miss Carson, the Superintendent of the St. Christopher House Settlement in Toronto. But Miss Carson says she saw him for only two or three minutes, made no statement to him whatever, disagrees with him entirely, and adds that "English girls are just as good as any other girls, and it is a shame to say such things about them." Dr. Shearer, head of the Presbyterian Moral Reform Department, to whom Miss Carson said she referred Dr. Sparrow, also denies that he gave him any information, and disputes his conclusions. Miss Agnes FitzGibbon, head of a hostel which has received 1,160 English girl emigrants in ten months, calls him either malicious or ignorant.

"In London slum-life in particular," says Dr. Sparrow, "it is possible for a girl whose character is not too good and whose habits generally are bad, to pass unnoticed, but in Canada it is different. There anyone who does wrong is at once noticed and pointed out." And he gives an instance of an unmarried English girl in service at St. John's, New Brunswick, who had a child. "Her mistress naturally enough remonstrated with the girl, and was astonished to receive the airy reply, 'Oh, we think nothing of this in England!'" We do not believe that story, and we do not know anybody who knows England who would. We do not believe an English girl would make such a reply, and we do not believe the mistress who says she did. We believe that it was told to the Doctor, since he says it was, but we do not believe he believes it himself, for he knows that, so far from it being true that "we think nothing of this in England," we think everything of it, and that there is probably not a country in the whole world where a mother with a "shame child" has to suffer so heavy a burden of obligation and responsibility alone. To our mind it is disgraceful that anyone should make these charges against the emigrant girl in Canada. She is in the great majority of cases a girl whose character will bear as close a moral microscopy as that of Canadian women—or even of any learned doctor.

BOOK-KEEPERS FOR CHINA.

OUR CHALLENGE TAKEN UP.

We are pleased to say that Messrs. Bridgford, McKill and Co., employment agents, of 25, Lord Street, Liverpool, have lost no time in taking up our challenge, and have satisfied us that they were commissioned to procure book-keepers and accountants for China. The employers—in a very large way of business indeed, and constantly requiring such services—had at that time already inspected the likely men on Messrs. Bridgford and Co.'s books, hence the insertion of the advertisement we quoted. We therefore gladly testify to the *bona fides* of the firm.

"Bullets"—the Best Judged Competition.

ARE YOU A "TELLER" OR ONE OF THE "TOLD"?

That is what the world is divided into: those who direct affairs and those who are directed.

IT IS THE "TELLERS" WHO GET THE MONEY!

If you doubt this, lookround your own office, your own place of business, and mark the men who get the biggest pay, the highest salaries. They are the "Tellers," and the rest—well, they are the "Told."

* * *

Amongst which are *you* going to be classed—the "Teller" or the "Told"? The choice is yours, absolutely, for circumstances of Influence, Money and Position have nothing to do with it. Nothing can resist the choice of a man, a strong man, once made.

* * *

You know the difference between the "Teller" and the "Told." You know it by the ease of the man's life, by his confident certainty for the future. Do you want us to tell you in which home the furniture is being painfully paid for on some hire system, where the willing wife has to count and hoard every penny, where the luxuries of life are few, where the master of the household comes home at night merely to think of the worry of the morrow? Do you want us to tell you in which home the wakeful hour of the night comes with fear, not bodily but mental fear, the gnawing insistent fear of "IF" I lose my present position and "IF"—well, how long before the next?

You know: and it is the household of fear—If, the home of the Told.

* * *

Trace the history of the man that is one of the "Told." He is told as an office boy. He is told as a junior. He is told as a senior.

* * *

Because he knows, or thinks he knows, no better, he lets week by week, month by month, slip away into years gone—all spent, passed, wasted, in some visionary, vague hope of future advancement to come.

* * *

And fifty years of age finds the "Told" man drawing his wage or salary, in daily sickening, terror lest the weekly dribble of money should cease, and he and his be left destitute.

And there comes the time when he is *told*, told for the last time—Told to go.

* * *

You who know the intimate truth of what we have said, you who know it, *what* are you going to do? Put off till next time, still faintly nursing the far-off hope of some intangible betterment, or start to get it now, which?

* * *

We can tell you the way to the better hope, we can show you the path that leads to the way of the "Teller" out of the way of the "Told," if, IF you will only make the decision now, and write us on the form you will find below.

* * *

What are the prospects of the "Teller"? Wealth, always wealth. Look at the London Traffic Combine and ask Sir E. Speyer. Look at Pierpont Morgan, who "tells" 300,000 men. Look at the General Manager of your own firm. They were men like you, years ago, with just your chances, just your opportunities, *except that once in their lives they had the chance of making the decision you have the chance of making now, at this moment. And THEY made it.* What are you going to do? Sign the slip below, which tells towards fortune-making or let it go?

* * *

Make your decision NOW. Lack of instant decision is the very thing which leaves the might-be "Teller" to drift into the ranks of the "Told."

* * *

The ranks of the unemployed, anywhere, are the ranks of the "Told," those who have been willing to be the hewers of wood and the drawers of water.

* * *

Probably every man who reads this article will heartily endorse everything it says, every conclusion it draws, every line begging those who read to decide on something, and to *do* something *now*. For instance: *you* do.

* * *

To the minority, every word of this will be a word of instant hope, the spur that drives to the sending of the Slip below. The minority will act at once, will fill in the Slip below. They are "Tellers" in the making.

* * *

Quite frankly, others will pass it by; simply because they pass by all the chances of life. The majority will agree with all that has been said and—with flabby indifference, will still do nothing, or worse, mentally resolve to do the simple thing of writing for the particulars we can give of how to make character, and put it off. They are the "Told," unless they change.

There is a sharp line of demarcation between the "Tellers" and the "Told." It is the line of Decision. What are *you* going to do—do with regard to signing the Slip at the base of this column? What?

* * *

Therefore fill in and send off the Slip below NOW, and learn how you may become one of the "Tellers" of the business world Take your first step!

THE PELMAN SCHOOL OF THE MIND.
15, Wenham House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.

Please send me particulars of how I can become one of the TELLERS.

Name .....
(Mr., Mrs., Miss, or other title.)

Address .....

.....

Occupation .....

This information may also be obtained from our Branch Schools: Club Arcade, Durban; 9, Churchgate Street, Bombay: 47, Queen Street, Melbourne.

IN THE CONSULTING ROOM OF DR. BULL.

By WALTER MOORE.

I.—MR. BONAR LAW.

Good morning. . . . Take a seat. . . . You are not feeling quite up to the mark? . . . A leetle anxious about your health, eh? . . . Yes, yes. . . . Quite so, quite so. . . . We all get a little run down at times, you know, and that brings depression. . . . Let me see the tongue . . . further out, please. . . .

H'm! . . . Have you a bitter taste in your mouth? . . . No? . . . You surprise me! . . . There is a distinct suggestion of bitterness in the appearance of your tongue. . . . Any acidity? . . . No? . . . Come, come! . . . . You must be candid with your medical adviser, else it is useless to consult him. . . . Ah! I *thought* so. . . . Stomachic trouble, evidently. . . . You have been taking something that has disagreed with you. . . . Now, what do you think that can have been? . . . Been chewing some uncooked corn, eh? Ah! . . . Foreign corn? . . . Yes, yes. . . . That would overtax your digestive apparatus. . . . You must be more careful. . . . At our age, my dear sir, we cannot afford to take liberties with our internal economy. . . . Of course, in your case, obviously the first thing to do is to eschew corn from your diet. . . In your weakened condition you cannot bear the tax. . . .

Now, touching your pulse. . . . Dear, me, *dear* me! . . . Most irregular, *most*. . . . And erratic. . . . I'm afraid I shall have to examine your heart carefully. . . . The beats appear to run in irregular cycles. . . Starting slow, they increase, more or less regularly, in pace, become fast, if not furious, and then finish with a sort of *snap!* . . . Remarkable! . . . But by no means a healthy sign. . . . Just unbutton your shirt and undervest—so. . . .

I don't wish to alarm you, but I can detect unmistakable symptoms of incipient *partyitis*, which, unless it is at once treated, might lead to fossilisation. . . . I am afraid the seat of the trouble is mental. . . . Get as much fresh air as you can—go to the country if possible—and occupy your mind with Business. . . . Would the air of Lancashire suit you? . . . W-e-l-l . . . it would and it would not. . . . If you have friends there, go by all means. . . . Cheerful, congenial society—people who can take you out of yourself—is everything in a case like yours. . . . But I would not advise you to visit that part of the country if you are likely to be lonely. . .

I'm afraid your frame is somewhat enfeebled also. You have been rather overdoing it in the matter of clothes, I fancy. It is possible to keep oneself too warm, you know. . . . Now, that Ulster you are wearing is *much* too heavy for a man of your physique. . . . You would feel more comfortable, and would be able to move with far greater freedom without it. . . . I advise you to adopt a less cumbersome garment for general use. . . .

Now, just let me see the eyes. . . Ah, yes—yes . . . distinctly liverish. . . . You should eat more vegetables and fresh fruit—but avoid the orange—on no account touch the orange. . . . It is a most bilious fruit, and, as you know, biliousness is a very distressing malady, giving rise to giddiness, double vision, redness before the eyes, and irritability.

As regards a regimen, in addition to and apart from the advice I have already given you, eat and drink what you fancy in moderation, take a reasonable amount of exercise, and an occasional dose of Epsom salts. I will write you a prescription to be made up at the chemist's. And my fee? Oh, as to that, you will receive my little account in due course.

Good day—good day! . . . Now, mind, don't on any account *overtax yourself*. . . .

THE PRESCRIPTION.

1 oz. Apoth. Vinum Scotii.
2 oz. Aqua pura.

To be mixed, and taken three times a day, after meals.

The New Year's number of the *Syren and Shipping*, priced at a shilling, is another remarkable issue of that popular shipping organ. Containing over 300 pages, all—even to the advertisement sheets—printed on art paper, it gives in a form interesting even to the ordinary reader who takes an "outsider's" interest in our great mercantile marine, a complete survey of the progress of our national industry during the last quarter of a century.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXXIX.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A CARMAN'S VAIN SEARCH FOR WORK.

This week we appeal to our readers on behalf of another South London family. The father—aged but 37, and a carman by trade—had to give up his work four months ago on being seized with asthma and bronchitis. He is now, however, well enough to resume work if he could only find it, but both his wife and himself walk the streets day after day in vain search of employment. There are five children—the eldest, a girl of 18, is also without work and is anxiously seeking a situation in any domestic capacity; the next, a boy of 16, is earning 7s. 6d., and this is the only means by which they all exist, the other children being a girl of 13, boy of 8, and another girl of 3 years respectively. On paying our usual visit we found the mother with her three younger children absolutely destitute of food and fire; the father and eldest girl were out in search of work. In anticipation of our benevolent readers responding to this appeal, we gave temporary assistance, but we should like to be placed in a position to tide them over the period of unemployment of the breadwinners. They have had to part with almost everything they possessed, even to the little children's meagre clothing, the only apologies for furniture which now remain being a small table, two bedsteads—each bearing merely a mattress, with no covering whatever—and a couple of chairs. The rent for their two rooms is 5s. 6d., and they are a fortnight in arrears. If only some of our readers will help this sad and deserving case, they will make lighter the hearts of very deserving but unfortunate people.

We have received the following amounts," which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents named:

CCXXVI.—"Sillyfit," 4s.

CCXXVII.—"Macbeth, 2s. 6d.; "Roman Catholic," 1s.; "Widow's Mite," 1s.; Mrs. B., 2s. 6d.; "Sympathy," 5s.; J. W. R., 1s. 6d.; A. B. C., 2s. 6d.; H. A. L., 2s. 6d.; "Don," 6d.; "Christy," 2s. 6d.; W. J. B., 1s.; "A Neighbour," 5s.; G. H. P., 2s. 6d.; "Steward," 10s.; "Elstow," 1s.; "Dieu Donne," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. R., 1s.; N. A. P., 5s.; J. A. W., 1s.; "Master, Officers and Engineers of s.s. *Rosario*," 6s.

CCXXVIII.—"Steward," 10s.; "Ivy Mary," 1s.; "Elgype," 3s. 4d.; T. H. S., 10s.; A. J. E. S., 4s.; "Widow's Mite," 1s.; "Jim, Dab and Pipe," 2s. 6d.; M., 1s.; "Sympathiser," 1s.; "Master, Officers and Engineers of s.s. *Rosario*," 6s.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others.

LONDON.—Mr. W. E. G. Bell, "The Castle," 37, City Rd., 1s.; Mr. P. Brinkman, "Bricklayers' Arms," Charlotte St., Old St., 1s. 5½d.; Mr. G. Sanders, 84, Curtain Rd., E.C., 1s.; Mrs. Jezzard, "Baptist's Head," 30, St. John's Lane, Smithfield, 1s. 6d.; Mr. C. H. Elliston, "King's Arms," Moreland St., City Rd., 1s.; Mr. A. Heap, "Denbigh Arms," Denbigh Place, S.W., 7s. 10d.; Mr. W. J. Ball, "Printers' Arms," Lower Kennington Lane, 1s.; Mr. S. W. Spratt, 70, High St., Ilford, 1s. 10d.; Mr. F. Shields, "The Cricketers," Newington Butts, 1s.; Mr. M. Pollack, "Carpenters' Arms," Dante Rd., Newington Butts, 1s.; Mr. A. Chaplin, "The Angel," 73, Lambeth Walk, 2s. 1d.; Mr. Vernon Bishop, "Bunch of Grapes," Dering St., W., 1s.; Mr. J. H. Stribling, "Carpenters' Arms," [illegible] Rd., 1s.; "Sympathiser," 6s. 6d.; Mr. E. T. Pimm, "The Cock," Waltham Green, 2s. 11d.; Mdme. Elizabeth, 911, Fulham Rd., 1s. 6d.

FALKIRK.—"Hielan' Mary," 2s. 1½d.

Total, £1 14s. 7½d., of which we have allocated 22s. 10½d. to CCXXVIII., 9s. 7½d. to CCXXIII., and (by special request of collector) 2s. 1½d. to George Luff, to whose case we recently referred.

"Bullets"—the Only TWICE READ Competition.

The Secret of the Honours List.

Overwhelming preponderance of business men—significance of the change—to what is it due?

WHAT has happened to the powers that arrange the New Year's Honours? Fifteen of the twenty-three new Knights and Baronets are business men, not simply Politicians, nor merely officers in the Services! Can it be that the authorities are at last realising that the successful business man does just as much for his country as the retired Anglo-Indian warrior or the wire-pulling M.P.?

Of the fact itself there can be no doubt, and its growing appreciation in high quarters but emphasises the esteem in which the successful Business Man is held to-day. Typical examples of such men who have been honoured for their splendid record as business men are Sir William Treloar, Sir Thomas Lipton, Sir Charles Macara, Sir W. Howell Davies, Sir William B. Peat, Sir Clifford Cory, Sir Thomas Dewar and Sir Thomas Sutherland, G.C.M.G., Chairman of the great P. and O. Steamship Co.

One remarkable fact is to be noted in the case of each of these men. It might be thought that they knew all there is to know about their business. Yet all these men find it worth-while to keep a copy of a certain book on business, and to refer to it whenever they feel in need of the indispensable information that it contains. Moreover, each of these men has gone to the trouble of confessing how valuable they find the work, and we print below some of these letters. It is hardly necessary to name the book. There is only one book to which it could apply. It is to the great "Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser" that these Business Knights go for advice and information, and if they find it of value, is there any need to point out its value to you?

Sir A. Lazenby Liberty is another of the new Knights who has already paid his tribute to the value of this great work. Nor is it to be wondered at that even he with his wide knowledge of business should find it of the greatest use. For the "Business Encyclopædia" is like no other book published. It deals with nothing but business, but it deals with that great subject so thoroughly and so successfully that no matter how wide your experience, or how keen your knowledge you will find it of use to you.

How this Concerns You.

The "Business Encyclopædia" is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that confront the business man during his work. Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in book-keeping, the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose leaf and card index systems you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. And when you learn all this, you learn it on the authority of actual, practical business men. For the "Business Encyclopædia" is written by many of the most successful business men in the country, including such men as Richard Burbidge (Managing Director, Harrod's Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), Joseph Fels (Fels-Naptha Soap Co.), A. W. Gamage (Managing Director, A. W. Gamage Ltd.), J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager of *The Times*), John Hassall R.I. (the celebrated Poster Artist), John Lawrie (Managing Director, William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing Director, J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridge's, Ltd.), H. Simonis (Director of the *Daily News*), Wareham Smith (Director of the *Daily Mail*) and many others.

Just think for a moment what the assistance of these men would mean to you if you could have them by your side as you work, to refer to whenever you were in doubt as to what to do in any difficulty. Surely you realise that it would mean just the difference between success or failure, between the certainty of promotion and the prospect of never getting any higher in the world than you are at present. The "Business Encyclopædia" is

Indispensable to the Young Man

who wishes to get on. All contrary opinions notwithstanding, the financial prospects for well-informed men were never so good as they are now. But the young man who rises is the one who, as well as having every detail of his work at his fingers' ends, is always a point ahead. In the "Business Encyclopædia" the ambitious man will find every detail relating to the matters on which he wishes to inform himself in order to increase his value in the commercial market. We guarantee that by the careful study of this work, the ambitious young man can fit himself for the position of manager of his business.

To the Mature Business Man

the "Business Encyclopædia" will prove equally valuable. With this work beside him, the most diffident man may acquire confidence in his own capability, and, proceeding to put his ideas into practice, may make of his business life a sure success. The man who wants to succeed in business must have specialised business knowledge.

Why You Must Act at Once.

It is only because 60,000 firms and business men are already using this work that we are able to offer to deliver it to any reader of "John Bull" for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid in small monthly payments, while you are already using and benefiting by the work. But signing this coupon does not cost you anything.

THREE OPINIONS.

SIR A. LAZENBY LIBERTY writes:—

"The 'Business Encyclopædia' will doubtless prove a valuable book of reference for professional and business men, as it has been compiled in an exhaustive manner, and covers much new ground."

SIR THOMAS DEWAR writes:—

"I must congratulate you upon the production of such an excellent work. The volumes are full of information, and I feel sure that before long they will be found to be a necessity in every commercial house. Now that we see the 'Encyclopædia,' the marvel is that such a work has not been thought of in this country before."

SIR C. W. MACARA, President, Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Association, Manchester. **writes:—**

"The 'Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser' contains a vast amount of information of the utmost value to business men, and I have already found it most useful as a book of reference."

A FREE BOOK.

This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia," but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and the specially low terms by which you can obtain the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, paying the balance by small monthly payments.

To the CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me one complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." I am a reader of JOHN BULL.

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TEETOTAL WAR AGAINST WORKMEN'S CLUBS.

SOUTH WALES FANATICS' CAMPAIGN.

During the last six months a wave of Puritanism has overtaken the police authorities in South Wales. Over fifty workmen's clubs have been raided, their books and papers seized, the clubs prosecuted, and their officers, committeemen and members fined for the "illegal sales of exciseable liquors." One of the earliest raids made was on the Trealaw Labour Club on July 18th. It had just opened its doors when it had a visit from the surveyor of the ground landlord. The ground landlord is Mr. Rhys Williams, a J.P., and Vice-Chairman of the Glamorganshire Quarter Sessions. The premises were in a perfectly satisfactory state, but the Club was soon to have another visit—this time from Superintendent Edwards and other police officers. The visit was paid on Sunday, July 28th, at 9.20 p.m., but, as the Club was closed at 9 p.m. on Sundays, the police found no one on the premises but the steward and his wife. Early next morning the surveyor of the ground landlord again called at the Club and took measurements of the rooms, and a few hours later the police entered the premises with a search warrant signed by the ground landlord himself! Six members were found in the Club, and it was not even then suggested that any of them had had too much to drink.

A Severe Decision.

The case was heard six days after the summons had been issued, one of which was a Bank Holiday, and after the refusal of the stipendiary, Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas, to grant a week's adjournment for the Club to arrange its defence and instruct its counsel. Mr. Rhys Williams occupied a seat in the well of the court. No charge of drunkenness was brought against the members, though the police hinted at convictions for drunkenness against some of them. The evidence showed that the Club was a *bona fide* political labour club, but it was nevertheless struck off the list for twelve months.

It is remarkable that, with the single exception of the Blaenllechaw Liberal Club, every club summoned has been convicted and struck off the register.

Of course all those that have been raided cannot be regarded as *bona fide* clubs. No doubt some of them existed solely for the sale of intoxicating liquor. Bogus drinking clubs are certain to arise where Sunday closing is rigidly enforced. But that is not so with the majority of the clubs that have been raided. They are practically all workmen's clubs. To be struck off the list for twelve months imposes a heavy penalty upon the genuine clubs whose members, necessarily reduced in number by the prosecutions, strive to keep the premises over their heads until they reopen; whereas those who have started bogus clubs for personal profit need not trouble about the premises that have been closed.

But this is not all. Where the closing of the clubs is followed by the prosecution of officers, heavy fines are systematically imposed, amounting with costs to anything from £50 to £150. It is monstrous that such penalties should be imposed for "illegal" sales of exciseable liquors on people who have been carrying on what in every shape and way was a perfectly legal institution.

Teetotal Tyranny.

In South Wales the magistrates are largely teetotalers, and inclined to close down clubs—especially workmen's clubs—whenever they get the legal opportunity to convict, and convictions have been secured on mere technical infringements of club rules. Moreover, the Cardiff Justices met recently to consider the licensing question. Alderman Beavan then expressed the hope that the Government would include later opening and earlier closing of public houses in any scheme of temperance reform they might adopt, and went on to say that clubs, no matter whether for the rich or the poor, should be subject to rules as stringent as those applicable to public houses. Unfortunately some of the licensed victuallers seem to be playing unconsciously into the hands of their worst enemies, the teetotal fanatics, by taking sides against rather than with their competitors, the clubs, at the present juncture. Clubs are bound to grow with repressive "temperance" legislation against the licensing trade, and the teetotalers will use, first, the licensed victuallers against the clubs, and then the clubs against the licensed victuallers.

THIEVING AND—KLEPTOMANIA.

The magistrate sat in the magistrate's chair,
With a lordly look and a lordly air.
With a dignified mien and manner staid,
So befitting to one of the Great Unpaid.

The prisoner stood in the prisoner's dock,
Half-numbed with shame and half-dazed with shock;
A poor starving creature, she'd stolen, she said,
To provide for her fatherless children bread.

"God help them, they're starving," she bitterly cried;
"It was only last week that my little one died.
Died solely from want, and I felt in the mood
To break all the laws of my country for food."

"Now look here, my good woman; there's not the least cause
Or excuse for you stealing and breaking the laws.
The workhouse stands ready for people like you;
There there's plenty to eat and plenty to do.

"You don't like the workhouse? Why fiddle-dee-dee,
I'm surprised at you talking such nonsense to me.
Those excuses won't work, and to sum up in brief,
I'm convinced you're a lying and dangerous thief.

"To wake my compassion you'll utterly fail,
So you needn't start telling the usual tale.
You're not to expect the least mercy from me.
To jail for a month," said the great J.P.

Another young woman now stands in the dock,
With a large plumed hat and a smart new frock.
She's charged with stealing (the selfsame crime),
But a very different case this time.

She's a well-to-do lady, who'd scorn, so 'tis said,
Such a dirty mean action as pilfering bread;
And, of course, it's a vastly different case
When a lady steals feathers and hats and lace.

"She comes of good stock," the solicitor cries,
As tears of mock sympathy well to his eyes.
"Her father and husband are both well-to-do,
And for mercy, your worship, I fervently sue."

Then the doctor is called, and he looks very glum,
As he plays with his watch-chain and twiddles his thumb.
"She had tooth-ache a twelvemonth ago I recall,
And I really believe that's the cause of it all.

"If ever the lady from honesty swerves,
I think it's the toothache affecting the nerves,
And the nerves giving way 'neath the terrible strain
I'm afraid must have somehow affected the brain."

What a wonderful thing, the brain, the brain;
The lady's dismissed without a stain.
And a frown crossed the brow of the great J.P.
"It's a scandalous thing she was charged," said he.

H. L.

INSURANCE.

The *Cabinet's* completed
Its *Panel* for the start,
Lloyd George has got the B.M.A.
And doctors "in the *carte*."

And now the Act's been chopped about,
And with "amendments" packed,
Perhaps they will re-christen it
The new "Insurance *Hacked*."

GREATREX NEWMAN.

"Bullets" The STRAIGHT Competition.

CAN MUSIC BE SELF TAUGHT?

A Library of Musical Instruction.

Many musically inclined people have hitherto been deterred from taking music up seriously by the expense and inconvenience of taking lessons from a music master. To such people the publication of "The Musical Educator" comes as a great boon. For "The Musical Educator" provides in compact and interesting form a complete and systematic education in music. It is written throughout by experts and is an authoritative guide to everything relating to music and singing. The illustrations are particularly valuable; they portray the different instruments, attitudes in playing, etc., and include five beautiful frontispieces and reproductions of valuable photographs.

We would especially draw attention to the following names of leaders in the musical world; and of the subjects for which they are responsible:—

PADEREWSKI.
"On the Best Way to Study the Piano."
MARK HAMBOURG.
"The Piano and How to Play It."
EDWIN H. LEMARE.
"The Art of Organ-Playing."
CARUSO.
"On the Cultivation of the Voice."
CLARA BUTT.
"On How to Sing a Song."
MADAME MARCHESI.
"The Teaching of Singing."
JOHN DUNN.
"On Playing the Violin."
Sir F. H. COWEN.
"The Art of Conducting."

The titles of a few of the sections are appended; every section is written by an expert.

Course on Voice Training, Singing, and Soleggio. Course on the Pianoforte. On the Violin. On Harmonium and American Organ. On the Organ. Lessons on Scientific Basis of Music. On Rudiments of Music. Course on Harmony and Counterpoint. Lessons in Canon and Fugue. Lessons in Musical Forms, Analysis and Composition. Articles on the Instruments used in Orchestras and in Bands. History of Music. Articles on Children's Music and Musical Drill, on Choir Training and Conducting. Article on Congregational Music. Biographical Dictionary of Musicians. Article on Musical Degrees. Nationality in Music.

TWO OPINIONS.

SIR J. FREDERICK BRIDGE, Mus. Doc., Organist of Westminster Abbey:

"'The Musical Educator' is full of useful information plainly set forth. The musical illustrations are excellent."

MR. CHAS. J. WINYARD, 22, Aberdeen Terrace, Tyne Dock:

"I find it of inestimable value in the education of my children, and also of great benefit to myself. The lessons are so graded that anyone should be able to make himself efficient by their study."

A FREE BOOKLET.

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Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated prospectus of "The Musical Educator," and particulars of your plan by which the five volumes are delivered for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Name .....
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HOW TO KEEP IN GOOD HEALTH.

A GREAT WORK.

By Dr. Andrew Wilson.

In these days of unsettled weather and raging epidemics anything that will help one to keep in good health and ward off illness is a thing greatly to be desired, and Dr. Andrew Wilson has written a book specially to fulfil this purpose.

It is called "The Modern Physician," and the information it gives can often prove invaluable in the home.

The section devoted to Hygiene, otherwise known as Preventive Medicine, includes the full exposition of the laws of health, and special attention is devoted to physical culture. The important subject of First Aid and

AMBULANCE WORK

is fully treated and lavishly illustrated.

Since a knowledge of the many and marvellous functions of the body in health is necessary to a due understanding of the body when the various organs become deranged by disease, descriptions of every part of the frame will be found in "The Modern Physician," the skeleton muscles, digestive system, heart and lungs, brain and nervous system, organs of sense, skin, kidneys, etc., etc., being fully explained and illustrated.

In this connection the coloured "manikins" or "dummies," in which the various organs overlap each other precisely as they do in the human body, are very useful in making the reading matter clear.

The section devoted to "The Family Medicine Chest" gives the description, uses and doses of drugs, used as drops, lotions, ointments and gargles.

THE HEALTH OF WOMEN.

Volume V. deals entirely with the Health and Diseases of Women. It will be found useful to mothers who wish their daughters to grow up into healthy women. Midwifery and the diseases of infants and children are fully treated.

There is a section devoted to Invalid Cookery, and a complete series of physicians' prescriptions will be found both reliable and useful.

MR. WM. WEBB, 102, Queensland Street, Liverpool, writes:

"'The Modern Physician' ought to be in every household in the land, and it is certainly no fault of yours should it not be so, for the price at which it is published is reasonable, and the terms of subscription exceptionally easy."

MR. A. H. HART, 18, Canbury Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames:

"Three things especially impressed me—the up-to-date character of the work, the simplicity of the language used, and its practical value. It is creditable alike to Editor and Publisher."

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IS BALZAC IMMORAL?

An Unexpurgated Edition.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the recent announcement of an edition of that great French author, Balzac, in its complete and unexpurgated form caused a considerable stir in certain quarters.

Fortunately, however, the publication is now an accomplished fact. For, though the prurient-minded may see wrong where none is meant—and Balzac certainly did write of nature as he found it—it would have been a thousand pities if the public had been deprived of this, its first chance of reading Balzac as he meant to be read.

THE NAPOLEON OF LITERATURE

For Balzac was to literature what Napoleon was to arms—a man of giant brain who saw all life, all character, and all events as material to be turned into stories, and who did not believe that there were any events that could not be told with advantage. And so his novels make their appeal to all.

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And all those who realise this will hasten to take advantage of the offer of his Best Novels in 14 volumes, specially selected by that famous Balzacian, Mr. Clement Shorter, Editor of the *Sphere*.

CLEMENT SHORTER'S CHOICE.

Cousin Betta.	The Lily of the Valley.
Cousin Pons.	The Illustrious Gaudissart.
La Duchesse de Langeais.	The Village Cure.
The House of the Cat and Racket.	The Country Doctor.
Gobseck.	The Magic Skin.
Old Goriot.	The Unknown Masterpiece.
Eugenie Grandet.	

WHAT "UNEXPURGATED" MEANS.

"Something has been said of the fact that the publishers advertise that their Balzac is 'unexpurgated.' This is of the utmost importance. The charge that a translator 'betrays' is justified where there is a prurient attempt to modify and alter phrases in the interests of Mrs. Grundy. Nothing can justify that. When face to face with a great classic we want the book as near as possible as the author presented it.

"Altogether it would be impossible to speak too highly of the excellence of translation of this edition of Balzac's novels."

The whole forms 14 fine volumes, handsomely bound in green and gold. The illustrations are by many of the foremost French artists, and the frontispieces are etchings printed from copper-plates. The originals were exhibited in the Salon.

A FREE BOOKLET.

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.....

BEERY BILL (*who has been handed a slightly smoked cigar by swell going into theatre*): "'Ain't these 'ere toffs got a cheek? 'Ow does 'e know but wot we was goin' in too?"

A "BOUQUET" FOR THE BOARD OF TRADE.

ANOTHER "POSTAL PLEASANTRY."

The results of the blundering incompetency of the Marine Department of the Board of Trade have been described by official apologists in many euphemistic ways, but we think the eyes of the somewhat tired public will open wide on hearing that the Post Office is taking advantage of the whitewashing Report of the *Titanic* disaster to repudiate liability for lost registered letters on the ground that the result of the Board's crass carelessness is the "Act of God"! This, however, *is* the plea put forward by the Postmaster-General in answer to the application of one of our readers who, on April 9th last, registered a letter directed to a Canadian correspondent, containing bank-notes. And now, after many months of weary correspondence, the sender has been informed that it has been decided that no indemnity can be claimed, "the sinking of the *Titanic* being due to an Act of God—see page 71 of *Postal Guide*." In reply to a request for the authority for this dictum, our correspondent was courteously informed that "the Postmaster-General's decision with regard to the lost mails on board the *Titanic* is based on the Report of the Court of Enquiry."

It will thus be seen to what inequitable uses this farcical Report can be, and is being, put. Had it been deliberately designed to evade all liability either for the neglect of the White Star Company to provide proper boat accommodation after their attention had been called to the hazard to which they were putting their passengers, or for the failure of the Board of Trade to compel the transatlantic liners to adopt a slightly longer, but infinitely safer, course in the season of iceberg danger, it could not have been better framed. All the blame has been attributed to the dead Captain—who, of course, can neither defend himself nor pay. However, such a "bouquet" as is now so gracefully presented to the Marine Department would by any other name smell as unpleasant to the public.

SAD STORIES.

By Leopold Spero.

A King's Counsel was asked by a Friend whether Black was White, or, if not, Why? "I cannot tell you offhand," said the Eminent One. "I must consult Pigface on Probability." "Pigface does not seem Definite enough," he said, after an Hour or two of Research. "I never did think Pigface a Scholarly Writer. He's all right for Examinations, but you want Something More than that in a delicate Question such as you have Propounded. I wonder whether Squelcher has anything to say! Squelcher was Riparian Interlocutor at Oxbridge for Several Years, you know, and his Treatise on Esoteric Dæmonology is quite the Best Thing of its Kind. Come to me to-morrow, and I'll tell you what I make of him." The Friend came next day. "No," said the K.C., "I don't think Squelcher touches the exact Point. He quotes Several Cases, *Tiddley v. Push*, for instance, in which a collateral doctrine is certainly urged by the Court, but——" "One moment," interrupted the Friend. "How long can you keep up This Sort of Thing?" "Sir!" said the Barrister. "Do you mean to——" "Come and have a Drink, Old Man," said the other.

• • • • •

The Unreasonable Woman was Waiting up. "Do you know what the time is?" she asked, more in Anger than in Curiosity. "I—I do, m'dear," said the Husband, "but I shouldn't like to tell you." "What have you been Doing all this Time?" was the next question. "I've been Acting as Liquidat'r 'v a C—Company under the New Act," said the Late Bird. "Indeed," said his wife. "And were there any Assets?" "Lots, m'dear, but the Company finished them up." "Well," said his Wife, "that won't do. I shall have to Appoint a Receiver. Turn out your Pockets, John." The Moral of which Tale is that, as the poet says, a Man may think he's had some Fun, but, in fact, a Woman's never Done.

£5 for Every Week of Your Life. See page 93.

Every piece of Furniture a bargain, our huge stock being cleared at almost actual cost.

GREAT SALE AT OXFORD STREET

The greatest sale ever held by us in the course of fifty years.

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as illustrated
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OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS WORTH—all genuine examples of our fine stock of furniture has during the currency of this sale been written down to almost the actual cost—and all our clients, both past, present and prospective are cordially invited to take full advantage of the very exceptional reductions which are the outstanding feature of our sale.

A visit to our Great Sale will enable you to make a first hand selection from one of the most magnificent and desirable Sale Stocks in London. The very latest and best examples of the furniture maker's craft are ranged side by side in our conveniently situated galleries and every piece or suite shown will tempt you at the price.

Write for our Sale Catalogue to-day.

For the thousands who wish to take advantage of our present sale prices and who, at the same time want further special terms, we offer our

GRADUAL PAYMENTS.

All you are required to pay is a small sum per month or per quarter, arranged so that the complete purchase is made in a term of one, two or three years as may suit your convenience. No interest is charged for this, and it follows that it costs you no more to purchase in this way.

10% ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

GENERAL TERMS.

£10	Worth	£0	6	0	per Month
20	,,	0	11	0	,,
30	,,	0	17	0	,,
40	,,	1	5	0	,,
50	,,	1	8	0	,,
100	,,	2	5	0	,,
200	,,	4	10	0	,,
500	,,	11	5	0	,,
1,000	,,	22	10	0	,,

BEDROOM SUITE as illustrated, £10 10 0.

We do not charge interest or require deposit. Country Customers' fares are paid on any order over £30. Every article purchased is very carefully packed and delivered to any required address free of all cost. Any Carpets or Linos bought will be laid free and schemes for completely furnishing a house in various original and attractive styles will be submitted at your request. £10,000 of Secondhand Furniture always in stock.

HACKNEY FURNISHING Company, Ltd.,

OXFORD ST. SHOWROOMS:
103 & 103a, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.
Telephone: 8938 and 8008 Gerrard. Telegrams: "Openwork, London."
Ramsgate Branch: High Street, Ramsgate.

HACKNEY SHOWROOMS:
1, 2, 3, 4, Town Hall Buildings; 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, The Grove (adjoining), Mare Street, Hackney, London.
Telephone: 34 Dalston and 854 North. Telegrams, "Furniments, London.

HOURS OF BUSINESS: Oxford Street—9 till 8; Saturdays 9 till 1 o'clock. Mare Street—9 till 9; Thursdays 9 till 1 o'clock.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Herr von Jagow, German Embassy, Rome.

SIR,—At a critical juncture in the affairs of Europe, you have been called from the comparative obscurity of a minor embassy to a position of mighty power and grave responsibility, as Foreign Secretary to the German Empire. There is no living man who envies you your task. Never were the omens less propitious. There is scarce a break in the black clouds that loom low on the horizon. Ten years from now and Europe may be emerging from a cataclysm which will have shattered Empires to their bases and sent august dynasties toppling into the abyss. Or the clouds may lift, and the decade before us may be an era of peaceful progress and harmonious effort for the common weal. I am no prophet, but a plain, blunt man, and I say to you, Sir, that it is for you and your Imperial Master to decide whether you will preserve inviolate the peace of nations or whether the proud civilisation of Europe shall go down in a welter of blood.

Our policy is clear. Our shores we will maintain inviolate. Our fleets shall ride supreme upon the ocean, guarding our commerce and standing sentinel over the outposts of our Empire. We seek no territory, but we will defend our own. We will not be browbeaten or cajoled, but our voice must be heard in the Council of Europe. These are our indubitable rights. Respect them, and show by your deeds that you have understood—and all may yet be well. Flout them, and the blood of Europe shall be on your head.

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Laurence Gomme, Clerk of the London County Council.

DEAR SIR LAURENCE,—It is a serious reflection on the legal administration of the London County Council that any of its representatives should be instructed or permitted to tempt unsuspecting people to commit offences under the law, with a view to obtaining a conviction against them. This scandalous and disreputable police trick, not wholly unknown in these days, is more closely associated with those notorious *agents provocateurs*, whose methods, wholly in the spirit of the Continental police system, are, in fact, thoroughly un-English and deserve the contempt and condemnation of every Englishman.

I am therefore not surprised at what Mr. Hedderwick, one of the metropolitan magistrates, told the legal representative of the Council who appeared to prosecute a Clerkenwell woman, under the Shops Act. But I make a mistake when I call it a prosecution. It was a flagrant persecution. The evidence was that your agent had selected the half-holiday day to enter this woman's little shop a few minutes after the closing hour and ask for a pound of tea. When she refused to serve him, he demanded, "Why not?" He would not take her answer and leave the shop, and, in the end, to get rid of him, she served him. Having obtained the tea, and thus induced her to commit the offence, he issued a summons against her for committing it. I incline to agree with the magistrate that if your agent goes on in this way he will be liable to prosecution for aiding and abetting the offences with which he charges others. There is no place for the *agent provocateur* as an officer of the London County Council.

JOHN BULL.

To R. H. Vernon Wragge, Esq., J.P., York.

INGENIOUS SIR,—I notice that you have promised to give a sovereign on January 1st, 1914, to each of twenty "drunks" notorious in your city, on condition that they escape conviction during the present year. This is an ingenious method of inculcating temperance, and more likely to be at least temporarily effectual than the exhibition of "horrible examples" on teetotal platforms. I understand that the objects of your solicitude are fifteen men and five women. Provided they fulfil the conditions of your promise, what a glorious "bust up" they will be able to indulge in on January 1st, 1914, when they foregather to celebrate the occasion! Twenty parched and determined boozers can do a lot with twenty pounds.

JOHN BULL.

To Bailie Kirkland, Northern Police Court, Glasgow.

DEAR BAILIE,—I have been trying to put myself in your position as judge of the precocious eight-year-old little kiddie whom a squad of the city police surrounded, captured, and brought before you on a charge of holding out his money-box to pedestrians, and requesting them to put in a penny towards his Christmas tree. In the first place, guid mon, it wasn't a very serious offence, now was it? In the second place, if the police were to run in every big and little fellow who begs Christmas boxes for noble causes—to wit, the butcher's boy, the baker's boy, the milkman's boy, the newspaper boy, the postman, the Salvation Army, the Blue Ribbon Mission, the Doch and Doris League, the Auld Lang Syne Club, and the Anither Dram Society—it is evident they would have so much to do between Christmas and the New Year that they wouldn't have time to stand at the public-house corners after hours and cadge Christmas boxes and New Year's gifts for themselves, with their tongues hanging out in front and their palms hitching inwards behind. In the third place, my mon, Donal' was such a wee mite that I daresay he *did* want a help with his Christmas tree and didn't know there was any harm in holding out his money-box and asking people to put in a few bawbees towards it. And, in the fourth place, his father, a respectable, hard-working body, with 22s. a week and eight children to look after, pleaded with you to give his wee lad a chance to retrieve his horrible character, to live down his pernicious money-box, to overcome his yearning to train for a Scotch Elder, authorised to pass round the collection plate—to live a righteous, godly, and sober life in the midst of his fellow citizens. And what was your answer? Yes, you would give him another chance, said you. You would send him to a reformatory for eight years. I fear you have not a heart that beats for the bairns.

JOHN BULL.

To D. V. Pirie, Esq., M.P., House of Commons, Westminster.

DEAR PIRIE,—You appear to be blessed with a larger measure of common sense than many of your colleagues. I cordially approve your suggestion that there should be a round-table conference of "all British nationalities and all political parties," to settle the big, outstanding, constitutional questions of the day.

Such problems should be raised high above the dusty arena of Party conflict, so that, by painstaking investigation and dispassionate discussion, a settlement may be reachep which would endure, because it is bread-based upon the common sense of all.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Keir Hardie, Agitator, Westminster.

DEAR LITTLE ENGLANDER,—I see you have broken out again. You don't believe in Dreadnoughts. Presumably you would scrap all our warships if you had the chance, and leave our shores invitingly open to the first foreign invader who might come along. Do you ever realise that you, as much as any of us, are living under the daily protection of the Services that you disparage and malign; that but for British guns and British warships the very liberty of which you prate would be in hourly peril, and the honour of your wife at the mercy of a foreign foe?

Try to appreciate the point of view of your comrades, Hyndman and Blatchford, and stop talking childish nonsense about things you don't understand.

If you lived in Germany, they'd clap you into a fortress and hold you there till you learned the virtue of keeping a still tongue. It's only the British Fleet that protects you from that sort of thing now. Leave it alone.

JOHN BULL.

Amundsen, South Pole Discoverer, New York.

News reached here you have told Yankee interviewers intend make dash on North Pole. Dash it.

BULL.

Sir Victor Horsley, Surgeon, London.

Note announcement you to be prospective Liberal candidate Harborough Division, Leicestershire. Got your knife in Unionists, I suppose?

BULL.

Lord Chancellor, London.

Congratulations on re-opening Law Courts. The lawyers don't like being shut up.

BULL.

Again Increased! £300 this week for a "Bullet."

MERELY "HELD UP."

LLOYD GEORGE: "Your Food Taxes are pretty dead now, aren't they, Bonar?"
BONAR LAW: "Oh no; they're only '<u>hung up.</u>' But what price your 'Land Campaign'?"
LLOYD GEORGE: "Oh, that's all right! It's only '<u>suspended</u>'!"

SKETCHES IN COURT.

NO. VII.—MR. JUSTICE PHILLIMORE.

BY TABERNA.

At the time, just fifteen years ago, when Sir Walter George Frank Phillimore, Bart., was raised from the Bar to the Bench, he was one of the most widely known and most generally esteemed of counsel, and to-day he is one of the best known and best regarded judges of the King's Bench Division.

His was a thoroughly popular appointment. A man then fifty-two years of age, Sir Walter was an old Westminster boy, who had secured a Fellowship of All Souls, and had had a distinguished Oxford career. Called to the Bar in 1868, and granted a patent of precedence fifteen years later, he enjoyed a large practice on the Western Circuit, and was leader in the Admiralty Court, and he was very much liked for his pleasant manners, consideration of others, and complete absence of "side." His father, the first Baronet, was a judge before him, for he sat fifteen years in the High Court of Admiralty, and during half that time he was the Judge or Official Principal as well as Dean of the Court of Arches, the Court of Appeal of the Archbishop of Canterbury as Metropolitan of the province. In 1875 the terms on which this latter post were held were varied, so that the elder Phillimore was really the last holder of an historic office. He was recognised as an eminent authority upon ecclesiastical and international law and procedure, and Sir Walter very handsomely maintains the family tradition.

Forty years ago it was said of a certain ornament of the Bench that he had all the qualities of a good judge; he was slow, he was courteous, he was wrong. Slow—if slowness be patience—Mr. Justice Phillimore is; courteous he is; but he is not frequently wrong.

He is now sixty-seven years old, and his unprofessional-looking moustache is grey, but for the rest his rather heavily-moulded face is the face of a much younger man, and he might be taken for a country clergyman instead of for what he is. He has a precise voice and manner, never makes the vulgar mistake of pretending to be omniscient and infallible, and, holding strong opinions himself, lives up to the motto of his house, which is *Fortem posce animum*. He thrice tried to enter the House of Commons, and when each of his contests had proved unsuccessful he fell back upon local government—a humbler sphere of activity, where his labours were so much appreciated that he is now an Alderman of Kensington, and in the Coronation year of his present Majesty served the office of Mayor of that Royal borough.

All his life Mr. Justice Phillimore has been a steadfast Churchman, and for some time he held offices partly legal and partly ecclesiastical in character. His particular religious opinions are sufficiently indicated by the fact that he is a vice-president of the English Church Union, but he does not unduly obtrude them when he is on the Bench. It has, however, been remarked of him, especially in connection with certain criminal cases, that the shocked expression which sometimes makes itself apparent on his face and the nature of his remarks upon the evidence are clear indications that he does not regard his judicial function merely as a lay occupation, but that the standard of conduct laid down by Divine authority is ever present in his mind.

There have not been many great judges in our generation; but Phillimore I. is one of the good ones.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.

BY RICHARD MORTON.

I.

There is a wild man from the West,
Whom doctors and others object to,
A fellow of infinite jest,
Whom some pay the utmost respect to;
Though many would lop off his head,
Yet others combine to adore him,
A man of the people, so great
That he dwarfs all the great men before him!

Refrain:—
Do I know where he lives?
Oh, yes!
This direction for him never fails,
For his telegraphic address
Is "*Rarefruit, Wales.*"

II.

There is an old man at the wheel,
His gaze fixed upon the horizon;
He wonders what time will reveal,
The future he must keep his eyes on.
That's why he procrastinates so,
Not answering anyone's question,
But brushing enquirers aside
With one simple, artful suggestion.

Refrain:—
Do I know where he lives?
Oh, yes!
He won't move till he's seen all the fun done;
For his telegraphic address
Is "*Waitandsee, London.*"

III.

An Emperor over the main
Is seized by the spell of a notion
That the name of "North Sea" is in vain,
Because it should be "German Ocean."
And therefore, while prating of peace,
The others by craft he inveigles,
Awaiting the time when at last
He's ready to let loose his eagles.

Refrain:—
Do I know where he lives?
Oh, yes!
If stopping his game you'd begin,
Well, his telegraphic address
Is "*Theday, Berlin.*"

IV.

There is a young lady we miss,
In France she still gallivants gaily,
The reason she does it is this—
She does not adore the Old Bailey.
Detectives may woo and may say,
"O'er the Channel we'd thankfully yank you!"
Politely she murmurs, "Good day!
Over here I am quite happy, thank you!"

Refrain:—
Do I know where she lives?
Oh, yes!
For the lady is no "Mrs. Harris,"
And her telegraphic address
Is "*Votesforwomen, Paris.*"

"PEOPLE WHO DON'T CONVINCE US——"

Dr. Montgomery, Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, who, now that his family is grown up, is asking for his salary to be reduced.

Miss E. Charlesworth, Chief Superintendent of the Local Government Board's typists, who said: "Men babble far more to men than women to women."

Miss Estelle Stead, who writes that the late Mr. W. T. Stead is interesting himself in the promotion of peace between Turkey and the Allies.

A popular novelist, who spent *six weeks* in a touring company in order to get the right atmosphere for his story of stage life.

The Great Sale In Southampton Row.

Oak Colour Adjustable Chair in various Art Colours.
£1 . 1 . 0

The Right Time to Buy

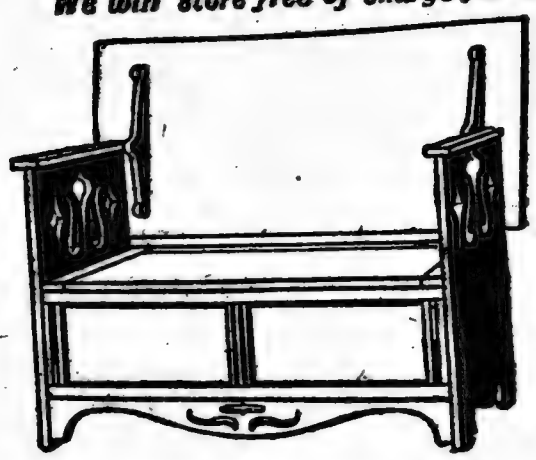
£100,000 worth of Furniture going at Bargain Prices.

Now is the right time to buy furniture. Hundreds of handsome pieces, some slightly soiled, others in perfect condition, are being offered at less than second-hand prices, thus affording a unique opportunity of acquiring furniture of the highest quality at figures which represent astounding value.

Don't Miss This Great Sale—

Call to-day and get the best selection. Everything is marked in plain figures and can be supplied on our Ideal Payment System which has been so successful for over 50 years. No deposit, no interest, no extra charge whatever.

We will store free of charge for six months any furniture purchased during the Sale.



Large size solid Oak Monk's Benches.
£2.15.0

Sideboard in wax polished oak with quartered panels and drawer fronts.
£10.10.0

Get Our Sale Bargain Catalogue To-day.

Fill in the coupon below and we will send you a copy at once, giving illustrations of hundreds of special bargains to be found in our spacious showrooms.

TERMS

Worth.				Per Month.		
£10	...	...	...	£0	6	0
£20	...	...	...	0	11	0
£50	...	...	...	1	6	0
£100	...	...	...	2	5	0
£200	...	...	...	4	10	0
£500	...	...	...	11	5	0

Or by any proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.

Country Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered free.

Second-Hand Department.

We have in this department alone a stock valued at over £10,000. A special catalogue is issued weekly, and will be sent post free on application.

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.

15 to 23 Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Hours—9 to 8.

Fill in and post this Coupon To-day.

Please send me post free a copy of your Sale Bargain Catalogue.

Name.....

Address.....

B3.....

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—
Aren't the Insurance "panels" a bit thin?
Does Turkey still hope to "hold her own"?
Doesn't the Navy want more "oiling" yet?
Will Lloyd George let the land-slide for a bit?
Why is the *Daily News* "giving itself away"?
Isn't a tax on food more than the public will swallow?
Will the Kaiser include Jericho in his Holy Land trip?
Are the motor-bus companies weeping over the taxi-cab strike?
Is "Great Scott!" Lord Charles Beresford's favourite expression?
Isn't the headline, "The Last of the Home Rule Bill" rather premature?
Are you going to "miss" that big prize on page 106?

MERELY RUMOURS :—
That Captain Bidwell is changing his name to Didwell.
That the Life-guard for motor-'buses will really be a Drag-oon.
That the refreshing fruit will be rare for some time to come.
That the proposed rival to *Punch* will be called *The Knock-Out*.
That the Turkish Delegates have now more Powers than they asked for.

MORE RAPID REVIEWS :—
WO2.—Brought *us* woe, too.
If It Please You.—It doesn't.
A Spark on Steel.—A very flash novel.
Fresh Air.—Just the book for the bald.
Mary-All-Alone.—We felt for the heroine.
Between Two Thieves.—Took a lot out of us.
Catching a Coronet.—Glad we didn't miss it.
The Evolution of Eve.—Stirred the Old Adam in us.
The Terrors, and other stories.—The title suits the lot.
Passions of Straw.—An interesting agricultural treatise.
An Affair of State.—Depicts a pretty state of affairs.
The Night of Temptation.—Got through it with great difficulty.
The Beloved Enemy.—Damn her, how we love her!
Where Are You Going To?—To get a drink—after reading it.

"Grapes for the Poor," reads a heading. Sour, of course.

The organ pipes have been stolen from a French church. A sad blow.

Chicago has a school for brides. All the lessons must be got by heart.

Some brigands pulled all the teeth of their victim. Were they gold-filled?

"Lady Slavey" won by four lengths at Gatwick. Evidently it was her day out.

It is complained that the Kaiser is somewhat stingy. But he often gives himself away.

The Bridewell Police Station is to let. Here is a chance for a good "lock-up" investment.

The author of the promised play, "Typhoon," evidently expects it to sweep all before it.

With fines for three months totalling £640, Kingston doesn't mind "road hogs"; it makes them pay.

Over £20 an ounce has been paid for an English-bred champion Pom. We are fattening up our bulldog.

Everything requires experience nowadays; you can't even pick a pocket without getting your hand in.

Three thousand six hundred pounds of tinned salmon has been stolen. Something like a "take" of fish.

"We are too drab a nation," says Sir Alfred East. But a little more of the Party Game will make the country blue.

A club has been formed in St. Louis to make funerals more cheerful. But they will always be "grave" affairs.

The Highbury cook who has been with the same family for over fifty years evidently knows how to "keep her place."

In trying to blow out a candle blindfolded, a party guest burned off half his moustache. They might have told him he was "getting warm."

"Rector as Fireman," we read. Nothing like looking ahead.

Mr. Rockefeller is undergoing the silence cure. But it's his money that talks.

"Mutton Cutlets" won a race at Hurst Park. An attractive course for the owner.

They have a female judge in Chicago. Well, women can always lay down the law.

Swiss prisons just now are very overcrowded. But it was always a taking country.

Rochdale wants a noise limit for motor-cars. Surely their present noise *is* the limit?

A Japanese was recently arrested with five cats in his pockets. He deserves one on his back.

The Suffragists have had a day of prayer. Fancy going "on their knees" for a vote!

A new London General route sounds depressing—From Colney Hatch to Clapton Pond.

Guests and servants changed places at Matlock hydros for one night recently. Nothing new.

A Greenwich woman complained that her husband ran after her. Enough to startle any wife.

Sir James Dewar says no one has ever seen a sunbeam. Nonsense! Devotees of Dewar see many.

The Willesden Guardians will no longer allow Sunday football matches on their and. Yet it is a good game.

A laundry advertises for washerwomen who do not chew tobacco. But this is better than chewing the rag.

"Modesty is a drawback to success," says a contemporary. This explains the lack of it in our leading politicians.

At a court in France, a judge boxed the ears of counsel. Here, witnesses are boxed; and frequently hard hit.

171,115,818 coins were struck in the Mint last year. A sad friend complains that he only struck the odd 18.

A writer considers that the Scout movement is making boys cold. He seems to forget that they are always near the pole.

The Kaiser has prohibited aeroplanes from flying over the New Palace at Potsdam. He dislikes the idea of anyone being above him.

Fifty red-haired girls were invited to the launch of a new steamer to bring it luck. We understand that it took the water gingerly.

"Constant kneeling in church is likely to give a person housemaid's knee," says a doctor. A reminder that cleanliness is next to godliness.

Peterborough fire brigade could pump no water through their hose because a newt was wedged in the nozzle. That's what neutralised the flow.

In the last fifty-two years, states an official return, over £9,250,000,000 has been lost in gambling by Italians. Does this include the Tripoli expedition?

In New York, which, according to Mr. Hammerstein, is the only place to appreciate music, fifty-five pianos have been sold for 1s. 11d. each. Bought for a song, in fact!

An Australian gentleman has broken record by playing the piano for 76½ hours. He finished "comparatively fresh," but the condition of his audience is not stated.

Thirty-one Wolfs, eighteen Foxes, four Bulls, three Cranes, two Lambs, and one Duck were present at the wedding in Brooklyn of Miss Birdie Wolf and Mr. Robert Fox. We can guess who was the duck, but the identity of the other lamb bothers us.

A detractor of kings, surnamed Mylius,
In the matter of truth not punctylius,
Said "The States I will try,
I shall get the Glad Eye."
But the "Hie" that he got made him bylius.

"Bullets"—The STRAIGHT Competition.

The Biggest Football Prize ever Offered!

£5 A WEEK FOR LIFE!

WE offer a perpetual income of £5 a week, or £260 a year, or more than 14s. for every day of your life, for the correct forecast of only 20 football matches to be played on Saturday, February 8th, as given on the entrance form below. No such offer has ever been made by any paper in the world.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

Below you will find an entrance form containing the names of the clubs engaged in League games to be decided on Saturday, February 8th. All you have to do is to draw your pen plainly through the name of the team you think will lose. If you predict a draw do not cross out either team.

In the First Round of the Cup Ties on Saturday, January 11th, a very great number of games were abandoned or postponed. In our Competition it does not matter how many games are abandoned. The great prize will be awarded the competitor giving the correct results of the matches played to a finish, even though only ten or twelve be decided. In no circumstances will our £5 a week for life for correct results of the matches played on February 8th be amended to a smaller cash prize.

To the reader from whom we receive an entrance form containing the correct results of the matches played as given on our coupon, we will award the record prize of £5 a week for life.

Should it happen that no entrance form is received containing all the correct results,

£500 in Cash

will be awarded to the competitor whose entrance form shows most correct results.

Competitors are advised to study the football columns of the daily papers. This is purely a skill competition—your football skill and

A FEW STROKES OF THE PEN CAN WIN YOU £5 A WEEK FOR LIFE.

You can send in as many entries as you like. Any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but EVERY coupon must be signed in ink by its respective sender.

SEND IN YOUR COUPONS NOW.

The checking of this competition will be a special feature. We have made elaborate arrangements whereby all risk of a winning coupon being overlooked, or the possibility of fraud, is totally eliminated.

Read These Rules Carefully.

1. On the Entrance Form attached, cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names, the teams you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either team.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL," Football Competition Department, 23, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, February 7th, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The Pension Prize of £5 a week for Life will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results of all the matches played on February 8th, as published in the *Sporting Life*.

4. In the event of no Entrance Form containing all correct results, five hundred pounds (£500) will be awarded to the sender of the Entrance Form containing the largest number of accurate forecasts.

5. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received. Individual competitors may send in as many entries as they wish, and any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends may send their entries together in one envelope.

6. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

7. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut not torn out.

8. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the Pension Prize of £5 a week for Life or the Contingent Prize of £500 will be equally divided.

9. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be accepted.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th.

FOR ONLY 20 FOOTBALL FORECASTS.

NO ENTRANCE FEES.

No Goals Required.

You can send in as many coupons as you like.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches Played Saturday, February 8th.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. For a draw do not cross out either club.

Blackburn Rovers	v.	Manchester United.
Bradford City	v.	Newcastle.
Sheffield Wednesday	v.	Aston Villa.
Tottenham Hotspur	v.	Middlesbro'.
West Bromwich A.	v.	Bolton W.
Woolwich Arsenal	v.	Oldham.
Birmingham	v.	Preston N.E.
Blackpool	v.	Clapton Orient.
Fulham	v.	Barnsley.
Grimsby	v.	Wolverhampton W.
Leeds City	v.	Leicester Fosse.
Notts Forest	v.	Hull City.
Gillingham	v.	Bristol Rovers.
Crystal Palace	v.	Brighton.
Merthyr Town	v.	Coventry.
Northampton	v.	Millwall.
Norwich City	v.	Swindon.
Plymouth Argyll	v.	West Ham.
Southampton	v.	Exeter City.
Stoke	v.	Watford.

I enter JOHN BULL Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed.....

Address .....

.....

After you have filled up your entries for this competition turn to page 106, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £300 in cash is awarded every week, in addition to over 3,000 cash and other valuable prizes.

BEHIND THE SCENES.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"Shock Headed Peter" is playing to merry business at the Vaudeville Theatre, Mr. Edmund Gwenn is really marvellous in the *title-role*, and Kate Bishop quite delightful as the sweet mother of all the naughty little children. I should like to see Miss Trevelyan in the cast, but Miss Nellie Bowman is perhaps equal to the occasion. It is the Gwenn-Trevelyan completion I miss, though.

If anything could make "General John Regan" a success at the Apollo, it would be the acting of those two fascinating comedians, Charles Hawtrey and Leonard Boyne. The art with which Charles Hawtrey plays characters of theRegan pattern is perfect, All is in excellent taste at the Apollo, and if you want to forget the cares of the work-a-day world for an hour, you can easily do so in the presence of Charles Hawtrey and his well-selected company.

"The Son and Heir" is panning out well for the next production at the Strand. Miss Gladys Ungar, who originally christened her play "The Eldest Son," is contemplating another change to "Ourselves," but I have an idea that "The Son and Heir" is the best title of the three.

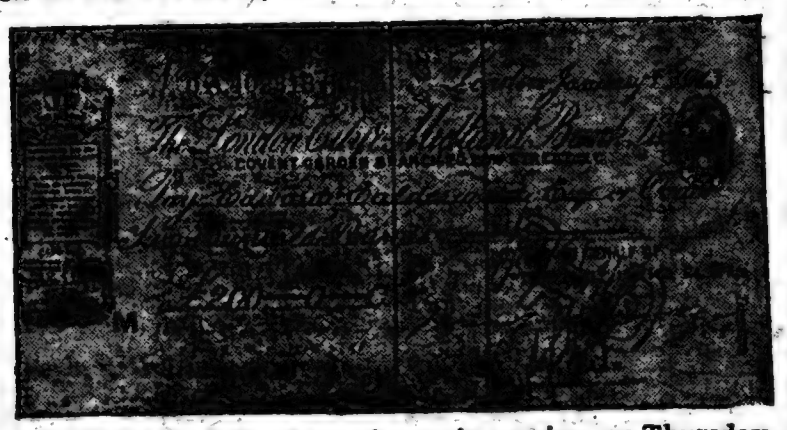
If only "Get-Rich-Quick-Wallingford" slips along as briskly as it did on its trial trip at Folkestone, then Arthur Collins is in for a big win at the Queen's with his Anglo-American farce. It's a ripping scheme anyway, and will set many a brain thinking as to how easily money can be made if you only hit on the right "tack."

I defy anybody to go one better than the Hippodrome as regards "Hullo, Ragtime." It is the final note struck with perfection in touch, taste, and melody in this curiously catchy and fascinating coon invention which has set all the world humming to its haunting lilt. The most startlingly beautiful figure in the Hippodrome revue is Ethel Levey, whose wonderful personality, charm, gorgeous gowns, and powerfully dramatic acting, to say nothing of her extraordinary gift as a dancer, captivate the house. mmediately.

RESULT OF "BULLET'S" COMPETITION. NO. 12.

HOW THE GOOD NEWS REACHED GREENOCK.

Mr. Edward Calderwood, of Greenock, the winner of the 1st prize in our No. 12 Competition, was, of course, very agreeably surprised when the postman brought him the letter containing our cheque for £200. He tells us that he has been a constant reader of JOHN BULL since it started, but this was his first attempt at "Bullets." Notwithstanding, he says: "I have often drawn the attention of my friends to the excellent judging in your competition, and they have invariably agreed that the winning attempts are really always the best." They now, we feel sure, have no cause to revise their favourable opinion. Mr. Calderwood tells us that he has competed in other papers on several occasions, but has never been successful before.



The original of the above cheque is on view on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 16th, 17th and 18th, in the window of Mr. W. Innes, 40, Hamilton Street, Greenock; and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 20th, 21st and 22nd, in that of Mr. Alexander Foulds, 30, Cathcart Street, Greenock.

A TON OF COAL for 2/6

Its cost a box of Seldonite
Abundantly repays:
In every hundredweight of coal
A hundredweight it saves.

"Seldonite" (so called after the discoverer, Prof. Frank Seldon) doubles the heating and lasting power of Coal, Slack, or Coke. It makes one scuttleful of cheap Coal go as far and give as good a heat as two scuttles of the best Coal do in the ordinary way. It can be applied to all Coal, Slack, or Coke in a few moments, and Coal which has once been "Seldonised" retains its double strength for any length of time. By using "Seldonite," you can save half or more of your coal-money, and you will ensure greater cleanliness and comfort, because your Coal will burn to fine ashes with a complete absence of soot.

"SELDONITE" is Concentrated Heat

If you use only one ton of Coal per month, "Seldonite" will save you about £4 in the winter. It is guaranteed to be perfectly harmless, does not smell or smoke, and gives a bright, beautiful, intensely hot fire. "Seldonite" can be used easily in the smallest household as well as in the largest factory, and its money-saving effect is equally great, whether for kitchen, grate, oven, copper or furnace.

AS A SPECIAL INDUCEMENT to encourage you to convince yourself of the marvellous efficiency of this Coal-Improver, the Sole Licensees have decided to send a full-size 4s. box (sufficient to treat one ton of Coal, Slack, or Coke) to all readers for only 2s. 6d., provided the order and P.O. for 2s. 6d. is received within the next few days. Beware of imitations which are useless. Write to-day, enclosing P.O. for 2s. 6d., to the Sole Licensees—

"Seld:nite" Labo atories, Dept. 79, Holborn Hall, W.C.

A FEW WELL-KNOWN USERS OF "SELDONITE."

DOWAGER COUNTESS OF GUILFORD.
VISCOUNT COMBERMERE.
LADY ANGIER.
LADY L. WEMYSS.
LADY HARRIET WARDE.
LADY BROWNLOW CECIL.
SIR S. PONSONBY.
HON. MRS. SIDNEY PONSONBY.
HON. R. HENLEY EDEN.
ADMIRAL SIR JAMES BRUCE.
COL. LEIR.
COL. BUTLIN.
CAPT. RICHMOND.
CAPT. WEBBE.
THE MOTHER SUPERIOR, House of Retreat, London.
ST. EDITH HOME FOR GIRLS.
REV. D. LEWIS, Llanon.
REV. JOHN M. MILLER, Symington.
REV. ALEX. WALKER, Millport.
REV. C. WILSON, Arklow.
REV. T. T. TAYLOR, Chelmsford.
REV. CANON WILSON-BROWN, Bury St. Edmunds.
REV. C. D. SNELL, Sevenoaks.
REV. R. R. COBBOLD, Ipswich.
REV. DR. L. WILLIAMS, Royston.
REV. BANFIELD, Hertingfordbury.

A PRESCRIPTION THAT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE

SOUNDS STRANGE BUT IT'S TRUE.

How interesting are the conversations one often hears in public conveyances. The following discussion is related as between two workmen in a tramcar in a Midland town:—

"I see Henry's back to work."

"That can't be, as I went to see him only on Saturday last, andhis pain were dreadful. The doctor says he's got Sciatica or Neuritis, orsomething like that, in its worst form, and may be in bed for mothhs."

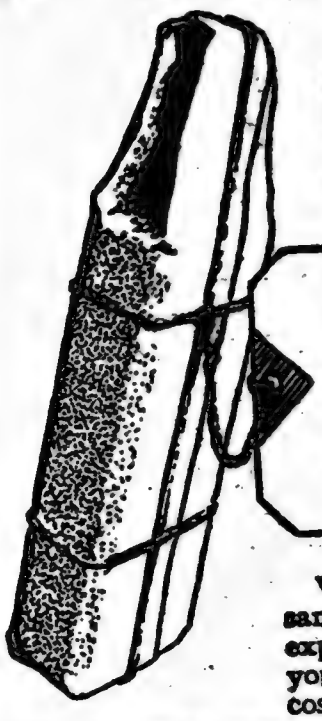
"Then the doctor is wrong, as I saw him as I came from the works, and he told me he never felt better."

"Seeing is believing, but I can't believe it till I see him. What did, he do?"

"He told me that it was a free prescription that he cut from a paper and as my missus is bad with Rheumatism, I asked him for it. Here i is: Go to the nearest chemist's shop and get 60 grains of Kephaldol in tablet form. Take two tablets at once, and then one every hour till the pain is gone. He says that's what cured him, and if it don't cure the missus he'll stand me a drink on Saturday night."

This FREE SAMPLE of Swamp Root will relieve your KIDNEY, BLADDER or LIVER trouble

Fill in Coupon & Post to-day.



COUPON FOR FREE SAMPLE BOTTLE.
TO DR. KILMER & CO., 10, OLD BAILEY, LONDON, E.C.
Please send me a free trial bottle of Swamp Root and a booklet of valuable information Post Free.
NAME .....
C37
ADDRESS .....
.....

We want you to test this free sample of Swamp Root at our expense. We know how it will help you, but we want to prove it without cost to yourself.

This wonderful remedy has attained remarkable results with thousands of different cases. It acts immediately in a mild and effective manner, bringing instant relief.

It cleanses and strengthens the kidneys, liver, and bladder. It may also be taken for any of the following symptoms due to the weakened condition of the kidneys failing to act properly in conjunction with the other organs. Obliged to pass your water frequently night and day, smarting or irritation in passing, or notice sediment; headache, backache, dizziness, heart disturbance due to kidney trouble, skin eruption from bad blood, neuralgia, rheumatism, lumbago, irritability, worn-out feeling, loss of energy, loss of flesh, sallow complexion.

SWAMP ROOT, the marvellous kidney remedy, will cure you as surely as it has thousands of others. This has been proved not once but many times. Let us prove it to you by sending you a sample bottle free.

INFLUENZA'S GRIP AND AFTER EFFECTS.

Mr. David Smith, of 46, Cambridge St., Luton, Bedfordshire, writes:—

"I suffered for some weeks from Influenza and its bad after effects, pains in the back, and was generally in a run down condition. Obtaining no relief from Doctors' medicine, I decided to try SWAMP ROOT, so sent for a sample bottle. After taking same, I began to feel much better, so purchased two more bottles, and am glad to say I now feel in perfect health. Thanks to your medicine. SWAMP ROOT.

"I can safely recommend it to anyone who suffers from acute pains in the back, as a result of Kidney and Bladder trouble, and shall only be too pleased to do so whenever an opportunity presents itself."

NEVER KNEW MY KIDNEYS WERE AFFECTED.

Mrs. Thompson, of 3, Underley St., Rade Road, Liverpool, says:—

"I am glad to tell you I have taken a few bottles of your SWAMP ROOT and have found great benefit from it. I was feeling very poorly when I sent for a sample bottle, and seemed to have nearly every complaint there is. Nerves and Indigestion were the two chief things. I never knew that my kidneys were affected, but I began to think there must be some cause for all my suffering as I was getting worse every day until I sent for the sample of SWAMP ROOT, but after taking it I felt a deal better, so I continued with it for a while and I was very thankful for the wonderful change I felt, and have not gone back but have kept well.

"I will recommend it to all I know."

Of all Chemists, 4 sizes, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 3d., & 4s. 6d., or from Dr. Kilmer & Co., 10, Old Bailey, London, E.C.

Dr Kilmer's SWAMP ROOT.

BUCHANAN'S WHISKY

"BLACK —&— WHITE"

The Highest Standard of QUALITY.

HOW TO GET FAT

HOME TREATMENT WHICH WORKS WONDERS IN MAKING SCRAGGY, UNDEVELOPED MEN AND WOMEN PLUMP AND ATTRACTIVE.

2/6 Box Free.

Thin persons, particularly those from ten to thirty pounds under weight, will be interested to learn of a marvellous discovery which puts on flesh at the rate of a pound a day in many instances, rounds out the figure, and makes thin folks fatten up, even if they have been scraggy for years.

Don't shut your eyes and say "Impossible!" Put this new treatment to the test. The test is free (see coupon below), and surely the test will tell. It is not necessary that you should remain skinny and under weight for the rest of your life, even if you have vainly tried every "fatiener" you ever heard of.

This new discovery calls for no drastic dieting, no detention from business. You go about as usual, eat what you like. It is harmless to the most delicate system and contains no oils, emulsions, or alcohol. Just a concentrated tablet which can be taken privately. Your nearest friends need not know what you are doing until you astonish them with a visible and pleasing increase in weight.

"I was just as thin as you are before I tried Sargol."

Excessive thinness is very mortifying. Thin men never look like "real money." They are pushed aside in the race for success. Bony women are seldom very popular. Dress will not hide skin and bones. All men admire fine figures. Take Sargol and get out of the feather-weight class.

Post the Coupon to-day. Send your name and full address to the Sargol Co. (Dept. 1017), 124, Holborn, London, E.C. They will send at once the 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, and will write and show you why you have remained thin, and how Sargol puts on firm flesh in a natural way. There is no longer any necessity for you to remain skinny and ill-developed.

FREE COUPON.

This certificate entitles the holder to one 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, the home treatment which makes thin folks plump and attractive.
Please enclose 3d. stamps to help pay distribution expenses.
The Sargol Co. (Dept. "17) 124 Holb rn, London, E.C.

DISTRESSING FITS.

Sufferers from Epilepsy and Fits can be treated at home by Mr. J. Gilbert Dale. No Bromide of Potassium or poisons used. Cases of over 30 years' standing have been cured. Interesting valuable treatise sent free if you make application at once to Mr O. Gilbert Dale's Secretary, 32, Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W. 'Phone No. 5341 Mayfair.—ADVT

SAFETY RAZORS REGROUND.

1d. each. Post free. Gillette, Clemak, Auto-Strop, Ever-Ready, etc., made equal to new, perfect satisfaction guaranteed. Copy unsolicited testimonial: Cedar Road, Aintree. Thanks for prompt delivery of blades: shaving is a perfect luxury with them.—H. M—

THE WAFER BLADE CO., Beckside Rd., Bradford, Yorks.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 104.

P. W. C. (Willesden), "JASON" (Preston), W. M. B. (Brixton), and many others, write us interesting letters in regard to our "New Year's Thoughts," but we must not be tempted into discussion upon religious subjects. We preach only once a year.

"FOOTER" (Carshalton).—Turn to page 93. £5 a week for Life for only twenty results ought to satisfy you.

A. W. B. C. (Nottingham).—Afraid we cannot get up much enthusiasm in your quarrel with the firm of photograph distributors you name.

"INQUIRER" wants to know who was responsible for sending the s.s. *Narrung* to sea at this time of the year with three hundred aboard. So do we.

E. F. (Tooting) wants us to help him trace the *descendants* of his family who lived two hundred years ago. We will look them up—one of these days.

MISS E. P. (London, W.).—We do not care to express an opinion whether a certain man is equal to a certain woman in the social sphere. Why not ask the parties themselves?

D. N. G. (Newcastle-on-Tyne) is one of the many sufferers who did the spade work of the Insurance Act. He worked fourteen hours a day for months, and cannot get his money. Why not organise and demand payment?

"HALF-A-CROWN" (Dulwich) wishes to warn readers against a man, "looking like a builder," who extracts half-crowns on the pretext of selling businesses. Now, be careful whom you accuse!

"A TURKEY WINNER" (Bournemouth) sends us P.O. for 2s., which we have had much pleasure in forwarding to Mrs. Cummings, to whose sad case we recently referred.

J. A. B. (Shipshaw Falls, Canada).—You are correct in saying that about two years ago we published some paragraphs relating to the Students' Art School, of 4, Featherstone Buildings, Holborn, carrying on the business of selling picture frames through the medium of giving away photographic enlargements. We have no knowledge, however, of the names of the principals who adopted this alias.

MRS. S. (Coventry).—It certainly seems strange that the *Midland Daily Telegraph* should state—in the middle of its report of a cruelty case—that "P.C. Taylor (65) stated that the Mayor was drawing a load of soil in Bishop Street on December 3." But we recall the fact that the chief magistrate of one of the principal London Boroughs was often seen pushing a truck during his year of office.

MRS. JEFFERIES, of 39, Keswick Road, Blackpool, would be grateful to anyone who could tell her the whereabouts of her husband, Isaac Jefferies. Though she believes he is not very far away from Blackpool, she has tried many ways of finding him, without success. She describes him as age 35, of dark complexion, 5ft. 5ins. in height. He is a tailor by trade, and dresses well.

K. E. C. (Kilmainham).—*Sh!* You must not call the Treasury a vampire; it is worse than speaking disrespectfully of the equator. Your opinion is, nevertheless, ours also. Law costs are horrible; but what would the poor lawyers do without them?

H. G. C. (Southend).—And Bessie's brother was quite right, too. Why *doesn't* Uncle Tom have a proper lavatory for his cows?

T. H. H. (Newport).—As you are an inventor yourself you have probably authority for advising other unfortunate inventors to be careful," as patents are things that get a wonderful hold, and if not careful the inventor may find himself in or very near the workhouse or the lunatic asylum."

A. M. (Sutton).—Unless by the terms of your agreement the landlord has to keep the premises in repair and he has had his attention called to the danger, he is not liable for the damage caused to your furniture by the ceiling falling. Lucky you were not underneath at the time.

W. N. Y. (Calle Cap).—Thanks for impressive lecture. The people of the Falkland Islands can afford to give the Bishop the funds he wants, and should do so if they want what he wants. The people of England can find better employment for £100,000 in feeding their own hungry and saving their own heathen. Charity begins at home. In this instance we think it should stay there.

"COAL" (Manchester).—With reference to the case of the West Gorton woman who was fined for selling a quarter-of-a-hundredweight of coal on early-closing day to a man who implored her to do so in order that he could make up the fire for a sick child, you ask, "In the name of Heaven, sir, where are we?" In the name of earth, sir, England.

E. G. B. (Hammersmith).—Agreements for the adoption of children are not strictly binding, and the parents can repudiate such an arrangement at any time; but the Court would not order a child to be returned unless it were satisfied that such a course would be for the benefit of the child itself, and in such an event, it would doubtless be made a condition that the cost of its maintenance should be repaid. You are entitled to let the child be known by your name, and no legal formalities are necessary.

"ITINERANT CHURCHGOER" complains of the whispering and fidgetting of vergers during service at Westminster Abbey, whereby his attention was diverted from the sermon. It is a good thing he did not protest at the time, or he might have been thrown out for brawling.

C. I. T. (Sheffield) wants us to make Compulsory Military Service one of the planks of the John Bull League platform. The political platform of the John Bull League has only one plank—Business Government; and Business Government means, amongst other things, the maintenance of an Army both efficient and sufficient, of which we are at present deficient.

H. C. (Chiltington).—We do not reply to enquiries through the post. The position of a "mixed shop" under the Shops Act is somewhat difficult, but it can sell all the week through intoxicating liquors, refreshments, newspapers and periodicals, tobacco and smokers' requisites, meat, fish, milk, cream, bread, confectionery, fruit, vegetables, flowers, and other articles of a perishable nature. As your wife is your only assistant, you need not allow her the half-holiday a week; but if you are wise you will let her have it when she particularly wants it.

I. C. W. (Melbourne).—Much interested in the epistles of Mr. J. Matthews, M. P. for Melbourne Ports. The one in which he tells Brown, his correspondent, to hang his face on the wall and throw bricks at it is perhaps the most touching.

MRS. M. S. (Highgate).—Glad to hear that the little chap was cured at the Charing Cross Hospital of a deformed foot through "the thorough care of the surgeon, Mr. Fairbank," and has not to wear any kind of instrument whatever.

"BRADFORD."—The advertisement offering to advance money without bondsmen at 3s. in the £ is misleading and sharkish. What happens to anybody who wants, say, £5. is that the lender deducts 15s. for interest, 18s. for working expenses, 2s. for preparing the promissory note, 5s. the first week's instalment, and hands over £3, which the borrower undertakes to repay at 5s. a week.

H. H. (Coventry) says he does not see any "Bullet" prizes awarded to persons living down his court. He should set them all a good example and try his hand at the competition.

"LADYBIRD" (Bury St. Edmunds).—We don't agree that women take no interest in football. Look at the host of them attending matches. Next time you go, see that it is in congenial company. You won't find it "tame" then. Nor would you find dull our football competition announced on page 93. A lady might easily win the £5 a Week for Life, and it should really be more valuable to her than to a member of the rougher sex—ladies are *always* young.

W. G. R. (Sheffield).—Sorry you have been so badly caught in the Stramonium cigarette swindle.

The World's Greatest Prize Offer——

J. S. (Richmond) takes us to task for using the expressions "old lady" and "old man" in the same paragraph, and asks, if "old lady," why not "old gentleman"? That's just the point; why not?

G. H. (Hull).—Jane Anne is up in Scotland recovering from the New Year celebrations. She is bound to return to the fold shortly. Jim bolted when the White Slave Act came into force.

H. C. (Leicester).—The solicitor has no right to detain the policy, but it may be cheaper to pay the sovereign he demands than have a law suit. As you have already paid £22 17s. in premiums, and will be entitled to only £3 11s. on the death of your father, you rightly say, "Good business for the Pearl Insurance Company"—but the Prudential can show better results than this on some of their policies.

"BULLETS" (Hull).—William Court Gully became Speaker in 1895, and held that office until he was succeeded, in 1905, by the present Speaker, who had not previously acted in that capacity. The daily rations of the British sailor vary with the day of the week. Ask any jolly Jack Tar you may meet in the street. He'll give you a civil answer, unless, perchance, he has just imbibed two small rums, hot. And, maybe, even then.

A. B. (Sutton-in-Ashfield).—A married woman who is living apart from her husband can apply for an affiliation order in respect of an illegitimate child. Who do you think ought to support it—the unfortunate husband?

M. A. T. (Peckham Rye) has sent us a lot of imitation type-written twaddle received from the Psycho Success Club, which includes, of course, a request for a remittance. We imagine that every time the "President," Mr. Elmer E. Knowles, opens an envelope containing a postal order from some deluded "client," he congratulates himself on another psycho success.

D. W. R. M. (Leicester).—As there is danger of the tree falling, and it is doubtful whether you have the right to remove it, you should place the facts before the local authorities.

"VICTIM" (Brockley) sent some pieces of wedding cake by post recently, and complains because the boxes arrived at their destination empty. All our sympathy goes out to the misguided postmen who, it is alleged, consumed the nauseous concoction.

S. M. W. (Liverpool) asks whether "a cyclist is bound to move for a motor-car provided that both are going in the same direction, and both on their right side of the road"? We are not sure whether the cyclist is bound by law to make way for the motor, but we strongly advise him to do so.

J. P. (Manchester), whose letter has been inadvertently overlooked until now, in a vein of friendly satire recommends us, in our own material interests, to drop our independent attitude. "What are you?" he asks. "Simply JOHN BULL, with something of a million or so poor devils of readers. With a host of enemies in all the high quarters. Take my advice, and turn over a new leaf. Start upholding all that is high and mighty. Shut your eyes to a bit of bunkum. You will soon get into the good graces of those in power, and they will take you unto their bosoms and share the good things of life with you." Give us the friendship and support of our "million or so poor devils of readers," and our enemies may take their bosoms and go hang!

J. B. (Holloway).—As your father died a widower without making a will, all his children share his personal property equally. The eldest son is entitled to all the freehold estate. Why do you think the eldest son should have everything?

A. G. (Commercial Road, E.).—For a man with seventeen years' good character to be given fourteen days' hard labour for being drunk, more especially when he submitted to arrest "like a lamb," strikes us as being a very harsh sentence. Indeed, it quite Knox us.

"A GROCER'S ASSISTANT" draws our attention to some new advertising literature issued by the National Cash Register Co., which warns tradesmen to "guard themselves against dishonest shop-assistants." Our correspondent declares that shop-assistants, as a class, are more honest than the National Cash Register Co., and work harder for their living. We will leave it at that.

P. J. B. (Brockley).—We do not see much reason to quarrel with the distribution of the Special *Titanic* fund in the cases named.

M. R. (Lytham) tells us she was in the village post-office recently, and overheard a customer ask for "a Lloyd George, please." Post-mistress replied: "Yes; sixpence or sevenpence?" Reminds of a Tommy Whittaker Special Scotch!

"PAVO" (Johannesburg).—You will note from the reply to another correspondent that we are endeavouring to devise a competition for foreign readers. It would have to be something extending over a long period, however, as you will readily see the time sufficient for one foreign reader would not be nearly adequate for another.

S. N. (Stonehouse).—We must not encourage betting—but you win!

"MOULDY" (Southampton) writes to inform us that her mother-in-law owns a motor-car, the glass wind-screen of which has been completely shattered three times during the last three months. On behalf of countless envious daughters-in-law, we heartily congratulate our correspondent.

W. M. (Southampton) writes:—"Can you tell me what Lloyd George can put up the chimney down and cannot put down the chimney up?" Hath much stamp-licking made our correspondent mad—or is he thinking of an umbrella?

J. W. (Woolwich) wants to dispose of a portrait of Gladstone worked in silk, "and very fine, showing almost every wrinkle in his face." A portrait of Lloyd George worked in Insurance Stamps might find a purchaser, but we fear there is a slump in Gladstones.

F. E. T. (Birmingham).—If you give a receipt for £2 or over, it must bear a penny stamp; the fact that payment is made by cheque does not relieve you of this liability, but a cheque is not a legal tender and need not be accepted in payment.

A. J. E. (Manchester) forwards us a copy of a letter he sent in answer to an advertisement for a "young man with brains." We have read his letter, and advise him not to waste his time answering advertisements of that character. He stands no chance.

H. T. (Chelsea).—No need to be squeamish because your next door neighbour is a Salvationist. As he declines to return your dog, apply for a summons in the police court. You are quite wrong; it is not part of the creed of the Salvation Army to take other people's property—on the contrary, a "soldier" is taught not to covet his neighbour's house, nor his wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor his cat—*nor his dog*.

A. E. H. (Barrow-in-Furness).—Note you intend to apply for a patent yourself shortly but are afraid you will be treated as though you were "asking for relief instead of *vice versa*." So are we.

R. L. E. (Forest Hill).—The only thing you have to be thankful for is that the woman is so old, otherwise a wrong interpretation might be put on your kindly acts. You cannot compel her to give a receipt for the money you lent, but you can sue in the County Court for its return. As you say she has neither honour nor means, we would not give you much for your chance of recovering the debt. Be a little less partial to the ladies in future.

F. J. (Senghenydd).—If intoxicating liquors are sold on the premises the club must be registered, and proper books kept for Excise purposes, the Revenue officials being entitled to inspect them. The police often like to air their authority, and it is well to keep on the right side of them. Give the inspector a cigar occasionally.

"OPEN GRATE" (Ravenscourt) says that some coal merchants, having put down a major portion of dust in three tons of "best kitchen," offered to "pick up the small and allow one-third of the actual weight picked up in good large coal." "This," they added, "is their usual practice with regular customers." Wonder what their practice is with customers who are not regular?

G. W. M. (Bermondsey).—As you were engaged verbally and paid weekly, the presumption would be that your services could be dispensed with by a week's notice, or a week's wages in lieu. Unless it is a custom in your trade, we fear you would find it difficult to convince the Court that a month's notice was agreed upon.

B. D. Q. (Feltham).—It is too bad of you. How can you expect a calm atmosphere for the peace negotiations if you call the Montenegrin delegates a scratch team for no other reason than that they all end in "itch"?

"FROUGOCH" (Boucath).—If your aunt lives in the United Kingdom, sue her in the County Court for the annuity for £5 and all arrears; but if she is in Mexico it would be cheaper to lose the annuity than attempt legal proceedings, though you might keep on worrying her with letters.

"LEAGUER" (Birmingham).—We are about to post to all branch members of the John Bull League a copy of the Second Report, together with the full text of the revised Constitution. Those members outside the branches can obtain a copy upon applying to the General Secretary. Don't forget our meeting at the Town Hall on the 30th inst.

"KENSINGTON" sends us a long explanation of the meaning of the word "wandering." He seems to be at the game himself, and in good form, too!

C. L. (Hailings).—We know nothing of the competition to which you refer. But we do know that on page 93 we are offering the record prize of £5 a Week for Life. Why not try that?

(A large number of replies are held over.)

—£5 for Every Week of Your Life.

JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

NOTES BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

THE COMING PROVINCIAL TOUR.—In addition to the Birmingham meeting, the President hopes to address meetings in the following towns upon the dates mentioned:—Manchester, February 14th; Glasgow, February 21st; Hull, March 7th; Bristol, March 14th; Newcastle, March 20th; Portsmouth, March 28th; Aberdeen, April 4th; Cardiff, April 11th; Belfast, May 1st; Dublin, May 2nd; and Sheffield, May 9th. Further announcements will be made in due course.

BIRMINGHAM.—League members in Birmingham and District are looking forward with great interest to the visit of the President on the 30th inst. The Town Hall has been booked for the evening, and all those who wish to be present should secure their seats at once. The following members of the Birmingham Committee will be pleased to supply tickets, upon application:—Norman Owen, The Primroses, Four Oaks; J. Parker Crees, 2, Dean Road, Erdington; E. H. Hodgkinson, 408, Slade Road, Erdington; A. R. Tye, 87 Hillaries Road, Gravelly Hill; C. T. Wilson, 363, St. Benedict's Road, Small Heath; A. Rowe, 219, Trinity Road, Aston; V. Allport, 3, Thirville Road, Handsworth; A. F. Taylor, 3, Woodfield Road, King's Heath; and T. Wiggin, 13, Birchfield Road, Aston.

I hope to arrive in Birmingham on the 27th inst. in order to prepare for the President's meeting. I shall be pleased to meet any member. My address will be The Stork Hotel, Corporation Street. I shall require a band of stewards for the Town Hall. Will members desirous of assisting in this direction kindly send their names and addresses to the Local Secretary, Mr. Norman Owen, of The Primroses, Four Oaks, Birmingham? A preliminary meeting of stewards will be held, of which I will give due notice.

MANCHESTER.—The Local Secretary is now hard at work assisting Headquarters in the organisation of the meeting to be held at the Free Trade Hall on February 14th. In Mr. Wardle the League possesses an indefatigable worker, who was largely instrumental in bringing about the success of the President's meeting in 1909. I am already being besieged by requests for tickets for the forthcoming meeting, and shall be pleased to meet all applications as far as possible upon receipt of stamped addressed envelope.

LEEDS.—News is to hand that the Local Branch are about to call their Annual General Meeting to outline and discuss a campaign for the future. Will all members who have changed their addresses during the last twelve months please communicate with the Local Secretary, Mr. D. A. Macdonald, of 24, Savile Place, Chapeltown Road, so that notice of the meeting may be sent to them?

DUNDEE.—The Local Secretary, Mr. D. Ballingall, of 69, Dens Road, writes that he is calling together his forces, in order to resume active work. Dundee has always been one of our strongest branches.

GLASGOW.—The Executive Committee has been called to attend a special meeting to discuss the arrangements for the President's meeting at the St. Andrew's Hall on February 21st. The Hall was full to overcrowding on the occasion of his former visit, an hour before the advertised time, and I have not the slightest doubt that the same scenes will be witnessed next month. Mr. H. McCone, of 1222, Springburn Road, is the Local Secretary.

BRISTOL.—Our members in Bristol still remember the famous 1911 Bye-Election, when Mr. Walter Moore, as the first Business Government candidate, opposed Mr. Hobhouse in the East Division and reduced his majority by over a thousand. The local organisation is now hard at work preparing the ground for another visit from the President, which has been provisionally fixed for March 14th at the Colston Hall. Mr. W. P. Frankham, of The College, Westbury-on-Trym, is the energetic Local Secretary.

DON'T FORGET to write for a copy of the Report of the proceedings of the League for 1911 and 1912, which will be sent to any reader of this journal on receipt of twopence to cover postage. With the Report will be sent a copy of the revised Constitution, together with a personal communication from the President.

NOTE.—Will correspondents please address all communications upon League matters to The General Secretary, John Bull League, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.?

Sleeplessness, Nervous Breakdown.

Mr. H. Grindell Matthews (the Inventor of Wireless Telephony) writes:—"I suffered from nervous breakdowns, sleeplessness and fatigue until I discovered Phosferine is a first-rate antidote for such troublesome conditions, or for dejection, and it immediately renews the strength of my nerves, and exercises a stimulating effect on the whole of the nervous system."

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There is only one Phosferine—beware of illegal imitations—do not be misled by PHOSPH THIS or PHOSPH THAT, but get

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The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

YOU must look out for yourself; no one else can do it for you. Look out for opportunity of promotion and better pay; but first for the means of qualifying yourself for them.

To-day is the day of the trained man; for the untrained there is no hope of success.

Do not take our word for what we say; we should not like you to do that. We offer you proof and want you to examine and criticise that proof.

We undertake to qualify you for success by making you a trained man. We are giving a sound, practical, up-to-date training to over 80,000 men and women in this country alone. Whether or not you feel the necessity of such a training it will surely interest you to examine into the method which has led thousands to success, and into the history of the greatest technical training institution in the world.

The I.C.S. Booklet, which we will send you, contains valuable practical advice on the chances and prospects for trained men in your own line of work, together with a full syllabus and specimen pages and illustrations from I.C.S. Instruction Papers of the I.C.S. Course best suited to your requirements, and a full account on what I.C.S. correspondence training really is, means, and has accomplished. Together with this Booklet the testimony of prominent public men and employers and of I.C.S students to the practical and PROFITABLE nature of I.C.S. training.

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Write TO-DAY, mentioning the work in which you are engaged and interested to International Correspondence Schools, Ltd., 150a, International Buildings, Kingsway, London, W.C. Please use full address so as to avoid chance of delay.

FOR COUGHS.

Owbridge's Lung Tonic

FOR COLDS.

Public

IT IS AMAZING to discover the amount of food fraud in existence at the present time. Some is intentional, some unintentional, being due to the ignorance of both producer and consumer. Take, for instance, that most important of all beverages, which in its purity is both food and drink—Cocoa.

Cocoa in an absolutely pure form, as I have repeatedly pointed out, is the ideal beverage of the nation.

How many people, however, know that a very large proportion of the cocoa consumed in the fond belief that it is a pure unadulterated preparation of the natural cocoa-bean, in reality contains an added drug which not only is unnecessary, but actually detrimental from a health point of view! It is an undeniable fact, and I state it with a full sense of responsibility, that most cocoas which the public regard as pure have been manufactured with added alkali.

The Drug Alkali is added—

1. To impart to coarse insoluble particles of cocoa (and often, in so-called "cheap" cocoas, harmful rubbish such as ground-up husk and shell), an appearance of solubility in the cup, thus enabling an inferior article to be foisted upon the public under the guise of being cheaper in price.

2. To give a false, dark, unnatural colour to the cocoa, which is mistaken by the public for richness and strength.

3. To disguise in cheap cocoas the flavour of inferior and musty beans, husk, and shell, so that other flavouring matter must be added to give bad cocoa a passable flavour.

NOTE.—In my investigations I have found that the so-called "cheap" cocoas have been manufactured with the most added alkali, which means that quite apart from the ill-effect on the health, the consumer does not taste the real natural cocoa at all.

Warning

Alkali is injurious to the health, chemically saponifying (turning into soap which the consumer drinks) and even decomposing the cocoa, also rendering it dangerous to the digestion and seriously detrimental to the heart's action.

In the case of some strong and healthy people, their natural power of resistance overcomes the harmful effect. But how many think they are healthy who are not! Undoubtedly many at present unaccountable every-day ailments could be directly attributed to this alkali adulterant. In any case drugs should only be prescribed by qualified medical men and not be taken indiscriminately in food.

In view of the fact that the claim of purity is being made generally for alkali-drug-prepared cocoas, no one should accept any cocoa unless its manufacturers guarantee that it is NOT prepared by what is known as the "alkali process," or by the addition of any other chemicals. It is absolutely unnecessary if carefully selected beans are used, the excess of fat removed, and sufficiently fine grinding processes employed. These processes, of course, involve greater expense in the production, and it is because of their employment in Sandow's Cocoa, that it has been named Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa, for, from the day I became responsible for the production of this now so widely consumed cocoa insisted upon the absolute elimination of the "alkali" process in its preparation, and to prove that I am not bringing this matter before the attention of the public from any personal or selfish motive, I suggest that the food authorities of the country standardise Cocoa so that all manufacturers of this article shall be obliged to produce only an absolutely pure, healthful food beverage.

Sandow's Cocoa is guaranteed absolutely pure cocoa manufactured, from carefully selected cocoa beans without addition from start to finish of its manufacture, of any added matter whatsoever, such as alkali or other drugs or chemicals, or any false flavouring such as nutmeg, cassia root, etc., so that the pure natural flavour and aroma is fully maintained and enjoyed by the consumer.

Eugen Sandow

CITY NOTES.

(*For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see page*, 104.)

Prairie Provinces Properties.

"Golden Opportunities" is the title of a pamphlet with a golden cover which is being issued by Prairie Provinces, Ltd., of 12a, Clifford's Inn, London, under the auspices, so far as the front white sheet is concerned, of Major-General Sir Norman Stewart, Bart., C.B., Gerald Biss, Esquire, and Captain E. G. Bellairs, as directors, the London Joint Stock Bank Ltd. (Chancery Lane branch) as bankers, Messrs. Lindo and Co. as solicitors in England, and Messrs. Baker and Davidson as solicitors in Canada. There seems to be no auditor or secretary connected with the undertaking; at any rate, no one is named as filling these billets. The pamphlet is eloquent as to the advisability of everyone into whose hands it may fall purchasing town-lots in Swift Current, "which is to become one of the great cities of Canada." "It is impossible for them," so says the pamphlet, "to lose their money, and an investment of even £100 may quadruple itself within the next two or three years." Swift Current, we are told on page 5, "is a growing western city of 5,000 inhabitants." Swift Current "has four banks, has five hotels and two newspapers, has seven large elevators for grain, has a new central school, with a new high school *threatening* to be ready within a year, and foundations have been laid for a large city there." The railway map on page 10, however, shows Swift Current in the shape of a spider located about half-way between Medicine Hat and Moose Jaw, and lest all these attractions should not be sufficient pages 11-20 offer Ottawa, Ontario and Alberta as other fields for the employment of British capital. When we look for the name of one single person who is responsible for any of the statements contained in the pamphlet we are disappointed. Having digested all the glowing accounts on the 20 pages we are curtly dismissed with the announcement "For further information, apply The Managing Director, Prairie Provinces Properties, Ltd., 12a, Clifford's Inn, London, E.C." Now our readers know where *not* to go.

The "Barren Net."

Sir Charles B. H. Soame (Bart.), to whose efforts in placing (New) Toddington Gas shares we referred a few weeks ago, does not appear to have attracted many fish to his net, for we find that he is still casting it out in all directions. We should advise him to use a line baited with something that does not come from Edmund Eaton factory.

Directorial Annuities.

The compact little scheme which the directors of the New Central Omnibus Company have just piloted through, to make provision for their old age in the shape of directors' fees for twenty years, with power to fill up vacancies at their own sweet will (also we presume for that term), is as novel as it is audacious, and Colonel Alfred Mayhew did well to protest against it at the meeting held for the purpose of bringing the Articles of Association up to date, in conformity with the scheme. That he was unsuccessful in enforcing his protest was a foregone conclusion, for, at these meetings, shareholders are regarded as mere recording machines for directors. It did not appear to occur to the directors that they are the servants of shareholders. What would they themselves do if their clerks voted themselves annuities with power to fill vacancies? The business of the New Central Omnibus Co., has been taken over by the London General Omnibus Co.; and there is nothing left to direct, except the flow of fees into the pockets of the board.

Bos(h).

Our office table is littered with circulars received by readers from I. H. Bos and Co., of Rotterdam, inviting them to participate in a gamble in cotton "futures," that is to say, to back a suggested impending rise in the price of cotton during a certain period, and send "cover" to Bos and Co., and await events. Bos and Co., though stating their implicit belief that the price will improve, are actually betting against its doing so; just as our own native bucket-shop keeper prophesies the rise in the price of shares and lays against his prophecy coming off. Bos and Co.'s game is the old, old one, and we do not think any of our readers will be caught by it. Our sole reason for referring to the matter is to point out that whilst the Betting Inducements Bill now before Parliament proposes to punish anyone who circulates betting tips, the Postmaster-General will continue to be able to oblige I. H. Bos and Co., of Rotterdam, and other Continental sharks, by circulating their fly-paper for them, free of charge, as the postage goes into the coffers of the foreign countries where these swindles are carried on. Oh, for a ——

Union Cold Storage.

There is every likelihood of a huge combination in the meat trade being brought about shortly between Messrs. Vestey and Co. and Messrs. W. Weddell and Co., Ltd., the best-known authorities and brokers in the Meat Trade. The shares of Union Cold Storage, and of Messrs. W. Weddell and Co., Ltd., should therefore be worth purchasing.

International Mercantile Marine Co. of New Jersey.

Investors should also keep an eye upon the 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of this concern. There is no doubt that as soon as those in the know have secured sufficient shares to suit their purposes, prices will rise as quickly as they fell in the spring, after the *Titanic* disaster.

"Duncombe and Bunkum."

Under this heading we recently referred to an audacious circular issued by the Hon. Herbert V. Duncombe, D.S.O., in conjunction with the notorious Edmund Eaton, offering shares in a concern calling itself "The South of England Natural Gas and Petroleum Co.," with which it was suggested that Lord Fisher and other well-known people were actively connected. We are not surprised to learn that his Lordship, on the matter being brought to his notice, forwarded the circular to the Public Prosecutor, who has instituted proceedings for the minor offence of issuing the pamphlet, etc., "without an imprint." As the charge is *sub judice*, we are precluded from commenting upon it, but we observe that Mr. Muir, the Treasury Counsel, incidentally mentioned that the document was intended to mislead the public because the fact that these gentlemen (Lord Fisher and other members of the Roval Commission) had nothing to do with the company was contained in a line of minute type, which he (Mr. Muir) suggested could only have been printed in order to escape observation. We shall be surprised if other and more serious proceedings do not follow against those responsible for so flagrant an attempt to hoodwink the public.

NEW ISSUES.

Mexican National Packing Co.

A very speculative and risky concern—with profits all in the air, and operating in an unsettled country. Wise investors will leave it alone.

Kansas City Terminal Railway.

Another wild scheme—to provide the pettifogging railways of a pettifogging city with "a system of terminals." The bonds should be left in the hands of those who—at a price—have bought them.

Grand Trunk Pacific Loan.

An issue of £240,700 Four Per Cent Bonds "guaranteed by the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan," and an issue of £238,600 ditto, "guaranteed by the Government of the Province of Alberta." What more do you want? The darned impudence of these Canadians surpasses our understanding.

Queensland Loan.

Another £2,000,000 of Queensland stock. Our advice is to leave it alone.

Abaco (Selagnor) Rubber.

A small rubber concern, issued under respectable auspices, but no good to the general investor.

Alto Parana Development Co.

A few queries. The dividend on the present issue of 330,000 Preference Shares will amount to £19,800, but the profits for 1911 and 1912 were £14,131 and £18,031 respectively. Everything depends upon the accuracy of the report of the Chairman of the Argentine Co., who is the promoter of the Company.

British Columbia Electric Railway.

Imagine a concern of this kind having the impudence to come over here for capital! Undoubtedly, at present, a very successful concern, and it is in its favour that it is an English Company, although how, having been formed in 1897, it can be correctly described as "incorporated under the Companies (Consolidated) Act, 1908," passes our understanding. Any investor requiring his money back can easily get it.

Kelantan Copra Company.

This is a freak. The Company is to acquire 10,000 acres in the Malay Peninsula, of which "over 5,000 acres *are stated* to be planted with cocoanut trees, and, of the balance, 4,000 acres *are stated* to be *suitable* for cocoanut plantation." Who is the joker behind the Company?

Liwadzi, Limited.

A wild cat scheme, to acquire and develop mica mines in the Nyasaland Protectorate, to work a Cotton Ginnery, and do all sorts of other things. The Chairman is a D.S.O.; if he makes this concern pay, he will deserve the V.C.

THE COMING OIL BOOM.

¶ The case at issue between employers and employed in the London taxi-cab strike has forcibly directed public attention to the gradual increase in the price of petroleum and its by-products, and, with the ever-growing demand, Oil-producing and Oil transport Companies are accumulating rich profits, to be ultimately paid away in dividends.

¶ In spite of adverse influences created by the Balkan War, prices in the Oil share market continue to creep up.

¶ Add these two facts together, and ask yourself whether you wish to profit by the Boom when it comes. If so, NOW IS THE TIME, and by sending us your name and address, we will forward you, free of charge, a copy of the *Oil Market Record*, containing a synopsis of the holdings, financial history, and prospects of the leading companies, and also our weekly *Oil Market Review*, which will keep you posted as to the output at the different fields, and the latest prices in the Share Market.

¶ Please, however, understand that we do business for genuine delivery only, and we do not undertake dealings on cover or margin, nor promote Pools, Combinations, or any of the manifold schemes associated with the methods of the "Bucket Shops," and so-called Outside Brokers generally. "It can only be by an organisation working on the lines on which the Oil and General Shares Exchange has been inaugurated that success can be attained."—*Financial Chronicle*, December 17th, 1912.

EXTRACT FROM THE "*OIL MARKET REVIEW*," 11*th January*, 1913.

Although dealings in the Oil Share Market during the past week have been on a small scale, prices have well held their own, and, in several cases, significant rises are recorded. Oklahomas, that we included in our last week's recommendations when being dealt in at 17s. 6d. middle price, were freely bought in yesterday's market at 19s. 6d., and the favourable report from these fields, which we anticipated in our *Review*, will, doubtless, lead to a further advance in the near future. It is pleasant to be able to chronicle that ALL the shares in the productive and dividend-paying group that we have indicated as good to purchase during the past three months have made substantial increases in value, Assams, Californian Oils, and Mexican Eagle Prefs. being amongst this number.

We specially recommend to our clients' notice a series of articles on the leader page of the *Daily Mail* of the 9th, 10th and 11th inst., in which the growing importance of the petroleum supply is exhaustively dealt with, and the possibility of finding a substitute for what is becoming an absolute necessity is canvassed. We fear, however, that it will be a long time before anything to take the place of petrol as fuel for motor-power—to give the same results, in the same bulk, and at the same price, that is—will be discovered and put to practical use. How many times have we been assured that an efficient substitute for rubber had been discovered? Yet we are still awaiting this much-to-be-desired phenomenon, and, apparently, are likely to continue to do so.

There is one point that the writer emphasises which is worthy of special notice, namely, the fact that all the petroleum we use is of foreign production, neither Great Britain nor her Colonies contributing to any appreciable extent to our liquid fuel supply, which, considering its immense advantages over ordinary coal fuel in so many cases, is a fact greatly to be deplored. The recent discoveries of petroliferous regions in South Africa, however, lead us confidently to hope that this state of things will be remedied in the near future, for we understand that operations are being rapidly pushed forward on the territories controlled by the Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa, and that profitable production is within measurable distance of accomplishment.

We, therefore, see no reason to change the recommendation contained in our last week's *Review* and, taking an approximate investment of £100 as a basis, we confidently recommend a distribution on the lines indicated below, the first three being the best productive dividend-payers, and the fourth the best medium for speculation with a view to sale at an enormously enhanced profit, that we can discover:—

5	Shell Transports, at 5⅜	£28	15 0
10	Mexican Eagle Prefs., at 2¼	22	10 0
10	Oklahomas, at 17s. 6d.	8	15 0
40	Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa, at £1 ..	40	0 0
		£100	0 0

The prices indicated in this combination are, of course, somewhat arbitrary, being subject to market fluctuations. For instance, Shells have experienced a slight fractional relapse, while Oklahomas have made a decided advance. Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa are also in firm demand, and we are unable to sell at a lower figure than 22s. 6d., but are prepared to purchase small or large blocks in this concern at 21s. 3d. net.

OIL AND GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
38, Finsbury Pavement, London. E.C.

TELEGRAMS:
Oleogensha, Ave, London.

TELEPHONE:
London Wall, 3,973.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—HOLDER.—The Company is going strong, and you are on a good thing.

GALICIAN STANDARD OIL MINING COMPANY.—M. R. (Dublin), A. T (Skipton), E. J. F. (Haywards Heath), and others.—We look upon this as a proumising purchase, especially as one of the properties is already producing.

ACME MINES, LIMITED.—"JOHN BULL" READER.—In the first place you were very ill advised to take shares in such a concern. We strongly advise you to resist payment of the calls, and if you can combine with other shareholders to that effect, so much the better, while a demand for an investigation into the promotion and affairs of the Company would be instructive. SILLYLT.—See preceding answer. D. M. M (North Wales).—These people seem to have cast their net pretty widely, and we can only refer you to the above replies as to the action you should take in the matter.

GALICIAN OIL LANDS AND ROYALTIES TRUST.—C. W. (Portsmouth) and H. T. (Plymouth).—As we have frequently stated, we think well of the prospects of this undertaking, and understand that a satisfactory report has recently been made by an independent expert.

SOUTHERN ALBERTAS.—BAHIANO.—Our views with regard to this Company have been justified by events, but after the recent decline it would not be advisable to sell now. Everything, of course, must ultimately depend upon the success of the irrigation scheme.

MARCONIS.—INQUIRER.—An outside firm, and you should close your account with them as soon as possible. It is difficult to predict with certainty the immediate course of Marconis, but you should certainly hold them for a higher price.

WEST CENTRAL EXCHANGE.—F. A. R. (Blandford).—We certainly do not advise dealings with this concern.

FOREIGN LOTTERY BONDS.—R. W. (Lincoln).—These results can be obtained from Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris.

OIL AND GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—T. L. W. (London).—A perfectly respectable concern. You will be quite safe in dealing with it.

INVESTMENT £2,000.—BEAR.—Both Rio de Janeiro 1912 Loan and Chilian and Northern Debs. are good second-class investments. Other promising stocks are Vickers Third 5 per cent. Debs. at 105½, Pease and Partners Second 5 per cent. Debs. at 100, Associated Portland Cement 4½ per cent. First Mortgage Debs. at 94xd., and, of course, "John Bull" 6 per cent. Preference shares.

PREMIUM BONDS.—ANXIOUS.—The Bonds themselves are all right, but you should have nothing more to do with the firm in question. See reply to R. W. (Lincoln) under Foreign Lottery Bonds.

COMPANY IN BANKRUPTCY.—A. H. (Herne Hill).—You would have to sue the Receiver, but he is responsible only as far as the assets of the concern will go

CANADIAN LAND SPECULATION.—C. G. (Wood Green).—You will not gain much comfort by locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen. You should have made your enquiries before making the purchase. High Canadian authorities have issued strong warnings against this kind of speculation, and the offer in question is *too* good. If you can get out of it by forfeiting your deposit, do so.

ELEVEN STOCKS.—J. N. G.—Most of the stocks mentioned are good investments of their class, but none come within the gilt-edged category. They may be placed in the order of their merit according to the amount of their yield, the least desirable being Nos. 8 and 9, while No. 6 can only be called third-class.

OIL SHARES.—HOPEFUL.—It is possible that you can make some arrangement by communicating with the Secretary of the amalgamating Companies, and explaining the circumstances.

RUBBERS.—ABE.—There is no market for these shares, so that it is not possible for you to get rid of them. R. D. H. (Surbiton).—If it were worth while throwing more good money after bad, the shareholders might agitate for an investigation into the promotion of the concern, but we very much doubt whether the reshuffling of the cards will bring any change of luck. BANDY.—The shares you mention are quoted at ⅛ discount, so that at present they are practically valueless. You cannot, however, escape payment of the calls, and must therefore hold on in the possibility of something eventually turning up to enable the Company to retrieve its fortunes.

INSURANCE POLICIES.—THOS YORKSHIRE.—The omission to obtain the signature of the assured does not invalidate the assurances. If you send the policies it will enable us to advise as to your position.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE.—W. H. J. (Dudley).—Having applied for the policies some 14 years ago, you cannot now claim a return of the premiums on the ground of want of insurable interest. The Act of 1909 legalises the assurance. We observe your statement that in respect of one of the policies you have already paid in premiums over £56 for an assurance of £25. Write the Company and ask what they are prepared to do for you. In the circumstances, they may be willing to issue a Fully-Paid Policy or allow a Surrender Value, notwithstanding the absence of provision in the conditions for dealing with the assurance in this manner.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE.—J. J. D. (Castlebar).—We should advise you to lay the case before the Society, which is old established and well conducted. The Head Office is at 28, St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh.

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE.—BENEDICT.—One of the soundest offices and you cannot do better. In reply to your other enquiry, we do not know where you can purchase Gresham shares. They are very tightly held, and although occasionally they are offered for sale by auction in connection with the liquidation of deceased estates, they are eagerly snapped up at substantial premiums.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL.—BULLOCK.—It is difficult for us to advise with regard to the legality of the assurance on the life of your wife's father, in the absence of the policy. We should say that you are entirely at the mercy of the Company, and the only thing we can suggest is that you should write and state your case, and ask if they are willing to meet you by making a grant under Rule 16.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—W. G. B. (Smethwick).—The two policies were issued in 1899 and 1901 respectively, the total assurance covered being £19 7s. You say the proposer has already paid in premiums nearly £30 more than would be received in the event of a claim arising through death. The transaction has apparently been a very profitable one for the Company. In the circumstances, the proposer would like a free Paid-up Policy. The conditions make no provision for this or the payment of a cash Surrender Value. The proposer, therefore, must keep on paying, or allow the policies to lapse, in which case all the premium payments would become forfeited to the Company. The policies as drawn up are the property of the "assured," although you inform us the premiums have been paid by the daughter. Assuming the mother, who is the assured, disposes of her interest in the policies by will or assignment to some person other than the daughter, it naturally follows that the latter would have paid moneys for which she could not legally claim any consideration. In our opinion, the policies are irregularly issued; they should have been issued for the benefit of the proposer, whose present position is clearly unsatisfactory, and she had better consult a solicitor. Another alternative is to get the proposer recognised by the Company as the legal claimant, with the knowledge and assent of the assured.

LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES.—A. B. (Pontypool).—If the policies recite that your wife is the proposer, and that the assurances have been effected on the life of her mother, they are in order, and she could legally claim the death benefits. As regards your application for free Paid-up Policies, we unhesitatingly say that all Industrial policies should make provision for the issue of such policies, or the payment of a cash Surrender Value should the premium payments, for any reason, after the policies have been in force a certain number of years, have to be discontinued. It is the absence of these very necessary provisions which has inflicted such serious loss upon the poor of the community, who, upon the discontinuance of their assurances, have been compelled to forfeit the whole of the premium payments they have made.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE.—GRIMO.—You are entitled to the assurance benefits, as the proposer under the three policies. The omission of the signature of the assured from the proposal form does not invalidate the policies. We are of opinion that the Life Assurance Act, 1909, should be amended to compel the signatures of both the proposer and the assured. A good deal of strife and domestic unhappiness has been caused where a person has discovered that an assurance has been effected on his life without his knowledge, and some of the instances brought under our notice are indeed pathetic. We trust the amendment we have suggested will be speedily brought about. You say the policies are on the lives of your father and mother, and that you are not responsible for funeral expenses. The Act says that policies may be issued on the life of a parent for that specific object. The question therefore arises: are these policies within the provisions of the Act or to put it in another way, was the Company legally entitled to issue these policies on the lives of your parents when the object of the assurances was not to provide for funeral expenses? We are not aware that any case has been tried on this direct issue, and you had better therefore seek the advice of a solicitor before deciding upon the course you will adopt. The Conditions do not entitle you to determine these assurances by claiming a free Paid-up Policy, or the payment of a cash Surrender Value. Unless, therefore, the policies are maintained in force the premiums are liable to be forfeited to the Company.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—P. F. O. (Liverpool).—It is a comparatively young but progressive office, offering popular and attractive policies It had a slight set-back some three years ago when, in consequence of the Company having decided to abandon the issuing of "Bond Investment certificates," the business was reorganised The Company is coming steadily to the front again. Being under experienced and capable management, we regard the outlook as encouraging, provided the expenditure in relation to its new "Industrial Branch" is kept well under control. With respect to the £200 you have for investment, we look upon the shares at the issued price of 25s. for each £1 share as a good lock-up, and in view of the slow growth of purely Life Assurance risks, we think the Directors would be well advised to make a further public issue of its shares so as to bring the paid-up capital to at least a quarter of a million. It is all the more advisable they should do this owing to the ready outlet the Company possesses for investing its available funds amongst policy holders for the purchase of House Property upon which a substantial yield is realisable. Ample capital resources, therefore, are a source of real strength.

PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY.—INVESTMENT.—We understand that some important developments may take place at a very early date.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—DOUBLE YOU.—Established 1906. Authorised capital £150,000, subscribed £90,123, paid up £82,919. The mangement is respectable, but hampered owing to lack of adequate resources, which require to be strengthened, especially as the Company is building up an Industrial section, and this, in the case of a young Institution, is necessarily an expensive matter.

(A number of replies are held over.)

"Bullets"—the Only TWICE READ Competition.

South Africa's New Industry

Oil Within the Empire.

AN IMPERIAL ENTERPRISE.

"We may look forward to an African Petroleum Trade with the World. Great volumes of Oil ooze from the earth in many places, and this wondrous country is just as likely to fill the pockets of its exploiters with millions of money got from Oil as from any other undeveloped product," says a recent Cape Government publication.

The existence of Petroleum in many parts of South Africa is an established fact; but no systematic or scientific attempt has yet been made to prove its existence in payable quantities.

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD., has recently been formed for the purpose of seriously exploiting, for the first time, these known Oil regions.

The capital of the Company is £250,000 divided into shares of £1 each, and the offices of the Company are at 29 and 30, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

The Company has provided for a working capital of £50,000. It has acquired exclusive rights for working **Oil and all other Minerals**, for a period of ten years, over 150 square miles in the Ceres district, Cape Province—together with the option of acquiring the freehold of the properties at any time during that period.

Eminent Oil Experts have examined the ground and certified to its petroliferous character.

"The Guide to South and East Africa," issued by the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited, says:—"The chain of hill-encircled plains near and to the north of "Ceres undoubtedly contain deposits of the mineral (Petroleum) in question. It is only "found in payable quantities in places where the later deposits of rock have remained "practically undisturbed by the intrusion of igneous matter, **conditions which are "fulfilled in this locality."**

These remarks refer to the identical locality in which the Company's lands are situated.

The operations of the Company are not confined to the Ceres district, and negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of rights in other parts of the Union of South Africa, where indications of Petroleum exist.

The scheme has been received with great cordiality by the Press of South Africa, and by practically the entire Press of the United Kingdom.

The imports of Oil into South Africa exceed £500,000 per annum.

The importance of the industry to both South Africa and the Empire cannot be overrated, Ceres being within 100 miles of South Africa's naval base, Simonstown.

The potentialities of the Company are enormous. According to a leading American authority, its £1 shares may at any moment spring up in value to £200.

The pioneers of the new industry are the **South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, Limited**, of 80, Coleman Street, London, E.C., from whom full particulars of the Company and all further information may be obtained.

£300 FOR A BULLET!

OUR FIRST PRIZE AGAIN INCREASED.

This week we are increasing our First Prize to the huge sum of £300. Our Prize List is beyond a doubt more generous and attractive than in any other competition.

IMPORTANT.

EVERY COUPON received, whether it arrives early or on the closing day of the Competition, is carefully and conscientiously READ TWICE by our special staff of adjudicators.

First Prize £300

2nd Prize £25 - 3rd Prize £10

Ten Prizes of £2 10s. each,

A Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes,

200 Prizes of 7/6 each,

AND

3,000 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES.

THIS WEEK'S PRIZES VALUE CONSIDERABLY OVER £1,100.

IMPORTANT.

Coupons arriving on the date of closing are read with just as much trouble and care as those arriving earlier. "BULLETS" is the ONLY Competition in which every Coupon is READ TWICE.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples—

SMART SET
WEDDING DAY
TOLD YOU SO
SHOP ASSISTANTS
THE ODDS
RARE AND REFRESHING
HUSH MONEY
ROCKS AHEAD
I DON'T THINK
GONE AWAY
LAST TRAIN
STAGESTRUCK
SO SILLY
TAKING IT EASY
LABOUR EXCHANGE
SOON FORGOTTEN
MOST RELIABLE
PRINCIPAL BOY
COURT OF APPEAL
MY WORD
GREAT MISFORTUNE
WHEN TWINS ARRIVE
SECOND ROUND
FIVE POUNDS
THE GREAT POWERS
LORD ROSEBERY
AREA BELL
STOUT AND BITTER
REST CURE
STRONG MAN
JACK TAR
WALKING OUT
PARTY SPLIT
CAN'T BE BEATEN
HER CONSENT
LOBSTER SALAD
THROGMORTON STREET
NOT FEELING WELL
MY SWEETHEART
TOMMY'S DRUM

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "SOON FORGOTTEN," and choose the letters "O" and "E," using the word "Love" as the middle word, you can form the Bullet, "OLD LOVE EPISODE." Or from the example, "HER CONSENT," the Bullet "SHYLY TENDERED" can be formed. Again, if you take the example, "I DON'T THINK," and choose the letter "O," as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "ONIONS ARE ODOURLESS."

KINDLY NOTE

That Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

☞ Continental competitors please note that:—

FOR THIS COMPETITION THEY ARE ALLOWED UNTIL FRIDAY, JAN. 24th. TO SEND IN.

Closing date, Wednesday, Jan. 22nd.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(16) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

Closing date, Wednesday, Jan. 22nd.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(16) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 16," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, and crossed _____ & Co _____. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, January 22nd.
6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.
7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.
8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

RESULT OF THIRTEENTH
BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £200:—

Miss A. S. GASCOIGNE,
Beauchamp House, The Hundred, Romsey, Hants.
Example:—AFTER THE HONEYMOON.
Bullet:—EXCHANGE TWENTY TOASTRACKS.

SECOND PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. F. CRAVEN,
Hillside, Sing Lane, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
Example:—LEARNING TO PLAY.
Bullet:—ENTERING GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:—

Mr. D. W. BROWN,
65, Whitworth Road, Plumstead, London.
Example:—LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
Bullet:—INSECTS SAMPLING "KEATINGS."

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. are awarded as follows:

Mr. W. JEFFERY, 368, Compton Buildings, Goswell Road, London, E.C. (HER SMALL BROTHER—THINKS I'M ROCKFELLER) Mr. HENRY VICKERS, 1, Royal Avenue, South Cliff, Scarborough (PARIS—ATTRACTS—DISTRACTS—SUBTRACTS); Mr. R. RICHARDSON, 36, Sherburn Street, Hull (BEHIND THE SCENES—EVERY FAMILY SOLICITOR); Mr. W. S. MORGAN, 18, Durham Road, Raynes Park, S.W. (AFTER THE HONEYMOON—TIES BOOTLACE HERSELF); Mr. C. EDGE, c.o. Mr. W. W. Mills, 62, Beda Road, Cardiff (LOOKING FOR TROUBLE—ENDORSING WITHOUT READING); Mrs. E ALSTON, Priory Close, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands (SHARP FROST—SPILLS REVEAL FRILLS; Mr R. G. RAPER, Battle, Sussex, (LEARNING TO PLAY—OWN TRUMPET EASIEST); Mr. E G HARRISON, 101, Station Road, Norton-on-Tees (LOOKING FOR TROUBLE—RIDICULE WIFE'S RELATIONS); Mr. A. V. SIMMONS, 16, Hatchard Road, Holloway, N (BROILT CHILD—LAMB WITH SAUCE); Mrs. E. BROWN, Maplebank, Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire (SORRY HE SPOKE——SUPPOSED HEIRESS PENNILESS).

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

ADDISON, C., Admiral Street, Carnoustie, N.B.
BARLAS, J., Heughfield, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.
BEADLE, W. J., 77, Queen's Road, East Grinstead.
EFFORD, Mrs. M., 95A, St. Philips Road, Cambridge.
FRASER, H., East Links., Dunbar N.B.
KEEVE, D., "Eastney," Buckhurst Hill.
MAYO, J., 87, Hampden Road, Hornsey, N.
POWELL A., 69, Kirby Road, Leicester.
RICHARDS, J. H., 90, Rodenhurst Road, Clapham Park, S.W.
STEINHOUSE, J. H., 2, Tower Street, Selkirk, N.B.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

ABRAHAMS, E, 2, Newborough Avenue, Green Bank Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool.
BURCH, H. H., 58, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.
CARR, W. M., 24, High Street, Eastbourne.
COLLINS, P. E, Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent.
COOKE, E. H. S., 3 May Street, Foleshill, Coventry.
DAVIES, A. G., Hill Croft, Woodfield Crescent, Kidderminster.
EDWARDS, C., 41, Renfrew Road, Kennington, S.B.
GRIMSEY, A., 17, Recreation Road, Colchester, Essex.
HARTWRIGHT, Mrs. A. J. Ellesmere Manby Road, Malvern
HOME, G. A., (No. 125), Frimley Sanatorium, Farnborough, Hants.
LAW, A., 12, Glenesk Crescent, Dakeith, N.B.
LEMON, C, 14, Hamraye Avenue, St. Budeaux, Devonport.
LLOYD, R. E., Esq., 116, Stockwell Park Rd. Brixton, S.W.
McCORNISH, D., c.o. H. Lane and Co., Londonderry, Ireland
MANN, J. M., 10, Lothian Gardens, Glasgow, W.
NASH, H. A., 84, Bartholomew Road, Kentish Town, N.W.
OPIE, Sergt.-Major E. L., Devon Regiment, Exeter.
PRATT, A., 46, Douglas Street, Derby.
TAVINNER, F., 145 Balham Hill, S.W
WILLIAMS, F., Fairleigh School, Weston-super-Mare.

LIST OF 200 PRIZE WINNERS OF 7s. 6d. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 13.

A selection from the List of 3,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mrs. Bull" dated Jan. 25th.

Abbott, H., 96, Talbot-rd., Bayswater, W.
Abery, W., 42, Hestercombe-ave., Fulham.
Adkins, A. E., Dover-rd., Walmer.
Anderson, A. V., 4, Houston-st., Greenock, Scotland.
Andrews, R., 179, Cascwick-rd., W. Norwood, S.E.
Arrowsmith, F., 20, St. Chrysostom-st., Everton, Liverpool.
Asquith, F., Bridge-st., Bridlington, Yorks.
Austin, W., 116; Philbeach-gdns., Earl's Court.
Bagnall, W. A., 24, New-rd., Netherton, Dudley.
Baker, C. J., Abbotts Ann, Andover.
Baker, W., 53, Anderson-rd., Erdington, Birmingham.
Balfour, Mrs. J., 391, St. John-st., Clerkenwell, E.C.
Bardell, J., 34, Clavering-rd., Manor Park, E.
Barker, J., 15, Rochester-ave., Upton Park, E.
Barnicoat, C., C.E.R.A., H.M.S. Bellona, Devonport.
Barton, Mrs. E., 54, Bredon-rd., Addiscombe, Croydon.
Bassett, R., Keele-rd., Newcastle, Staffs.
Baxton, A. L., 44, Norbiton-ave., Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.
Bennett, D. H., 9, Eskburn-rd., Tuebrook, Liverpool.
Beresford, J., 51, Blakeney-rd., Sheffield.
Birtwistle, H., 50, St. Chads-rd., S.S. Blackpool, Lancs.
Black, M. S., Anna Villa, Paisley.
Blease, E. M., Alexandra House, Colville-gdns., Bayswater, W.
Borthwick, J., 26, Newton-st., Greenock.
Boston, M. M., Ivy Bank, Slatey-rd., Birkenhead.
Bower, J. M., 5, Strathfillan-rd., Edinb'gh.
Boyson, J., Eden Bridge, Kent.
Briggs, W. H., 70, Westfield-rd., Leeds.
Brace, H., 4, Ruby-ter., Coralie-st., Brookfield, Birmingham.
Bromage, V. R., Brent, Derby-rd., Sutton, Surrey.
Brown, G. C., 7, Fytchly-st., Northampt'n.
Bulford, Miss M., Hucknall, Nottingham.
Burnett, A., Lyndhurst, Mt. Vernon-rd., Barnsley.
Calderbank, Miss, Jubilee Villa, Anderton, nr. Chorley, Lancashire.
Camozzi, J. J., Abbey Mount, Tavistock.
Cansbrook, H. W., Peterafield, Jordan rd., Carshalton, Surrey.
Cathcart, H. B., The Villa, North Carlton, Worksop.
Chalmers, J. A., 32, Finsbury Park-rd., N.
Charnock, J., Burscough, Ormskirk.
Chilcott, Hugh, 64, Warrick-st., Leamington Spa.
Churches, F. G., 130, Sefton Park-rd., Ashley Down, Bristol.
Chute, A. J., 55, High-st., Maidstone.
Clayton, B., 7, St. Ives -rd., Halifax.
Clear, C., 46b, FitzNeal-st., Ducane-rd., Hammersmith.
Coates, W. H., 12, Westbourne-grove, Ilfracombe.
Coombs, D. G., 6, Winchelsea-rd., Philip-lane, Tottenham.
Coste, A. A., 23, Deerdale-rd., Herne Hill, S.E.
Lovett, F., 32, Cavendish-rd., Rochester.
Cull, Mrs. L. G., 21, Middle-row, Chipping-Norton, Oxon.
Cunningham, W., Charlton-rd., Tetbury, Glos.
Dacre, W., 161, Mackintosh-place, Cardiff.
Daile, G., 30, Dorchester-grove, Chiswick.
Dann, W., 39, Richards-st., Cathays, Cardiff.
Davidson, A. H., 12, Lawton-rd., Leyton.
Davies, Mrs. O. D., 8, Court-st., Maesteg, Glam.
Davis, Mrs. E., 56, Sutton-st., Aston Manor, Birmingham.
Denning, C. W., 2, Trentham Cotts, Nutfield, Surrey.
Douglas, J. A., Carmuir Cottage, Forth, Lanark.
Drewitt, H. F., Trimley Heath Farm, Shalford, Guildford.
Drury, P. W., 1, Liverpool-ter., Worthing, Sussex.
Duffell, G., "Tor Cross," Grange-rd., Deal.
Duncall, S. C., 23, Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone, Kent.
Eades, F., 55, Shakespeare-st., Stratford-on-Avon.
Edwin, B. G., 37, Bernard-st., Russell-sq., W.C.
Emeny, A., 11, Corbett-st., Smethwick.
Farrant, G., 68, Ashdown-rd., Worthing.
Faulstick, M., 78, Bevington-rd., N. Kensington.
Fielder, C. W., 11, Gildersome-st., The Common, Woolwich, S.E.
Fisher, P. H., Grove Nursery, Nightingale-grove, Hither Green.
Forster, E., 177, Hamstead-rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Freeman, F. J., 21, Tweenbrook-ave., Gloucester.
Gamesom, J. H., Bank Chambers, Pontypool, Mon.
Garrett, F. N., 38, Richmond-rd., Taunton.
Giddes, G. B., 34, Clerk-st., Edinburgh.
Gibbon, E. F., Barn-st., Haverfordwest, Pem.
Gilbart, G. S., 107, Minard-rd., Catford.
Goodman, Mrs., 95, Stafford-rd., Forest Gate, E.
Gosling, A. G., 25, Gaolgate-rd., Stafford
Graham, J., Arnieve, Janetta-st., Aydebank.
Gowing, C., 109, Valley-rd., Streatham
Greene, L. F. A., 36, Tivoli-rd., Crouch End, N.
Greene, R., 24, Grange-rd., Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.
Greening, F. E., c/o Ensor and Son, Auctioneers, Wimborne.
Greenwood, Mrs., 13, Burnley-rd., Padiham, Lancs.
Gunnell, G. T., 8, Glandale-rd., Hove.
Haddock, D., Caradoc, Wilton-rd., Malvern.
Hall, Ellen M., Newhall, Dunlop.
Halman, Mrs. W., 34, Cranbrook Park, Wood Green, N.
Harding, J., 248, Liverpool-rd., Warrington.
Harmer, H., 32, Narborough-st., Fulham, S.W.
Harrison, H. H., 4, Mayfair-gdns., Rochdale, Lancs.
Hartwright, Mrs. A. J., Ellesmere, Manby-rd., Malvern.
Henderson, T., 45, Eglinton-st., Sunderland.
Hind, R. B., 40, High-st., Newcastle, Stoke-on-Trent.
Holliday, A., 2, Jutland-rd., Catford.
Howlett, T. W., 52, Windsor-rd., Thornton Heath.
Hulme, P., 194, Hyde-rd., Ardwick, Manchester.
Hunter, Violet S., 8, Norfolk-rd., Aberdeen.
Hutton, C., 52, Cambridge-rd, Avenue, Southampton.
Irwin, G., 12, Wellington-st., Heslington-rd., York.
Jacobs, Mrs. M. U., 8, Heathfield-rd., Croydon.
James, H., 63, Forest-lane, Stratford, E.
Jenkin, J., Garage, Watering, St. Austell, Cornwall.
Jones, G., 3/227, Heath-st., Winson Green, Birmingham.
Jones, J. L., 40, Falmouth-rd., Redruth.
Jones, C. L., Fernbank, Ferndale, Glam.
Jones, Mrs. M., Huntsney Bay Villa, Stanhope-st., Hereford.
Kemp, A. V., 36, Diamond-st., Saltburn-by-Sea.
Kenyon, B., 119, Grosvenor-rd., Rugby.
Kilgour, H. N., 1,152, Argyle-st., Sandyford, Glasgow, W.
Lancaster, Mrs. L., 7, Marine-cres., Waterloo, Lancs.
Lattimer, T., 69, Milbourne-st., Carlisle.
Leach, S. B., The Gables, Redditch.
Lech, M., Queen-st., Scarborough.
Lewis, A. E., 125, Glencldon-rd., Streatham, S.W.
List, Mary A., 29, Meyrick-cres., Colchester.
Lloyd, D., 20, St. Leonard's-ave., Hove, Sussex.
Lynne, A. S., 228, Henley-rd., Ilford.
Lunn, H. P., 33, Welldon-cres., Harrow.
McClelland, Mrs. Bessie, 7, Corrie-grove, Muirend, Cathcart, N.B.
McDonald, S.-Sergt. R. E., 21, Merton-place, Polwarth-gdns., Edinburgh.
Meek, G., The Morse, Drybrook, Glos.
Messum, J. A., 194, Shelbourne-rd., Windsor Park, Tottenham, N.
Mockford, W., 16, Peabody Cotts., Rosendale-rd., Herne Hill, S.E.
Mulqueen, B. C., Lisalea, Blackrock, Dublin.
Murphy, H. G., 41, Kempsford-gdns., Earl's Court, S.W.
Nadin, H., 79, Newbold-rd., Chesterfield.
Nettleship, E. J., 80, Pekin-st., Poplar.
Newbury, R. E., 23, Blagden-ave., Westoe, S. Shields.
Newman, A., 14, Prestwood-rd., Wolverhampton.
Nicklin, E., Pathlow, Stratford-on-Avon.
Nizon, H., 44, Wilton-ave., Southampton, Hants.
Norman, E., 5, Union-rd., Warwick-rd., Bowes Park, N.
Pafford, F., 89, Sultan-rd., Portsmouth.
Paine, D. M., The Firs, Caxton, Cambridge.
Palmer, Chas. W., 16, High-st., Godalmi'g.
Parkes, E. J., 68, Victoria-ave., Worcester.
Percival, Mrs. F., 62, York-rd., Leyton.
Pickaley, Mrs., 151, Spital Hill, Sheffield.
Pierson, D.; 34, Leazes Park-rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Pinnick, S., Avoca, Morley Hill, Enfield.
Pitt, N., The Hut, Chelsfield, Kent.
Pocock, T., 1, St. John's-rd., Westcliff.
Prett, G. W. H., Holly Mount, High Hurst Wood, Buxted, Sussex.
Prince, F., 104, East-parade, Heworth, Quartermaine, W., 34, Ascott-rd., Tooting Junction.
Ratcliffe, J., 93, Crawford-ave., Smithdown-rd., Liverpool.
Reading, E. A., Highlandville, Wellaston, Stourbridge.
Redfern, H. W., 3, Campbell-rd., Bedford.
Ridyard, W., 95, Dickenson-rd., Rusholme, Manchester.
Riseley, A. J., Clive House, Tridwr-rd., Abertridwr, Cardiff.
Robin, R., 14, Lismore-rd., S. Croydon.
Rogers, G. E., The Central Bldgs., Oldham-st., Manchester.
Ross, A., 6, Crauford Drive, Maidenhead, Berks.
Rosser, J., The Mumbles, Manville-rd., Balham, S.W.
Round, C. M., Glenadon, Dartmouth.
Rushby, Miss N., Iron Works, Ruskington, nr. Sleaford.
Rushbrooke, Edith, Coleraine, Busheygrove-rd., Bushey, Herts.
Russell, G., 57, Beechville-ave., Dean's-rd., Scarborough.
Ryder, S., 7, King-st., Plymouth.
Scholey, H. J., c/o Corfield and Cripwell, 119-125, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.
Shackleton, W., Town Hall Chambers, Victoria-sq., Leeds.
Sharp, Miss M., 8, James-st., Treforest, Pontypridd, Glam.
Sharpe, L. A., 31, Foskett-rd., Hurlingham, S.W.
Sherriff, Mrs. A., 430, Green-lane, Small Heath, Birmingham.
Shields, G., 1, Laighmuir-st., Uddingston, Lanark.
Sinfield, A. D., 66, Dallow-rd., Luton.
Skinner, J. M., 15, Rose Hill-ter., Brighton.
Smart, F., 98, Old Church Hill, Chingford Mount, Essex.
Smith, Mrs. L., 25, Roseneath-place, Warrender Park-rd., Edinburgh.
Spurr, C., 8, Edginton-ter., Edginton-st., Blue Bell Hill, Nottingham.
Stanley, Miss E. C., The Green, Church Down, Cheltenham.
Stansfield, W., Foundrey-lane, Harehills, Leeds.
Steel, Mrs. A. E., 43, Lower Park-rd., Hastings, Sussex.
Stevens, Mrs. A., "Dacton," Werbeck-rd., Anerley, S.E.
Stewart, D., 31, Kennedy Drive, Partick West, Glasgow.
Stockham, A., 72, Ramsden-st., Barrow-in-Furness.
Stone, L. P., 30, Newington Causeway, S.E.
Thomas, F., 55, High-st., Burnham.
Thomson, T., Hallcross House, Musselburgh, Scotland.
Thorne, A. W., 5, Tymawr-rd., Llandaff.
Trent, Miss M., 19, Westbourne-gdns., Bayswater, W.
Trundler, F., 10, Newton-st., Rotherham.
Turner, J., 95, Lowmoor-rd., East Kirkby, Notts.
Tyler, P. S., Belmont Workhouse, Sutton, Surrey.
Veysey, G. C., 81, Hamlet-gdns., Hammersmith, W.
Vincent, B., 9, Parson-st., Dudley.
Wain, C. E., Truants' School, Lichfield, Staffs.
Watkins, Miss B., 81, Manor-rd., South Norwood, Surrey.
Watson, B., 70, Kirkdale, Sydenham.
Weaver, F., 37, Woodstock-rd., Finsbury Park, N.
Weldon, T., c/o D. C. West, 19, Rossall-st., West Hartlepool.
Wheeler, E. A., 58, New-rd., Littlehampton.
Wildman, W. P., 4, Lodge-lane, Beeston Hill, Leeds.
White, J., The Poplars, Broadway-rd., Bristol.
Whitestone, Ida, 34, So. Portland-st., Glasgow, S.S.
Williams, Mrs. M. B., Waenfawr.
Williams, Mrs. E., 8, Hickman-rd., Sparkbrook, Birmingham.
Williams, R. F., 14, Murray-st., Camden sq., N.W.
Wyatt, W., Well Dene, Elstow-rd. Bedford

Complete List of 3,000 Winners of Valuable Prizes can be seen at the "Mrs. Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Scanning the entries for the Spring Handicaps which appeared last Thursday, and the dates for which the same are fixed, calls to mind the fact that this year the season will not open in the customary manner with Lincoln and Liverpool. A whole week of the merry season will have passed before we shall hear Great Tom's sonorous tones as we journey to the Carholme. This is in consequence of Easter falling so early, March 24th being the Bank Holiday. That day has always been kept for Kempton Park, Newcastle, and Manchester, and so it will be now. On the last occasion on which Easter fell so early—and that was as far back as 1894—the holiday meetings were all restricted to one day, and Lincoln, losing a day, started on the Tuesday. The present arrangement seems by far the better one. The two-day meeting at Alexandra Park will immediately precede Lincoln.

The entries have come out well, and all, with the exception of the Queen's Prize and the Liverpool Spring Cup, show an increase of numbers. The Kempton entry has declined from 43 to 34, and the Liverpool event from 31 to 27. Notable improvements are the Jubilee, which has gone up from 35 to 55, the Newbury Spring Cup, with an increase from 29 to 45, and the Ascot Gold Cup from 41 to 55. This is all very gratifying, and more especially so with regard to the last-named race. Altogether, the numbers show an increase of 74 on last year's figures. Thus, the turf world seems in highly prosperous condition, and is doing "nicely, thanks," despite the efforts of the bigots and the faddists to treat it as a very small child that wants grandmotherly care.

The poor racing of last week requires nothing in the way of after comment. The rotten state of the going just now is causing all sorts of upsets; and deductions made from the running upon it will put many people "in the cart" when the conditions alter for the better.

Prophetic.

It is with due consideration of this fact that the following selections are given for forthcoming meetings. With the exception of Tenby, which is an unscheduled affair, there is no racing on Wednesday and Thursday, and we shall make a start again at Hurst Park on Friday and Saturday. On the first day of Mr. Joe Davis's popular fixture, there is one race value £200, and three others at £150—quite a lot of money for jumping prizes. The most valuable race is a Novices' Steeplechase, and this should be good for

BALLYHIST,

who has done well over hurdles, and has proved his capacity at the bigger jumps. LEESON PARK ran sufficiently well at Gatwick to give him a decided chance in the New Year Hurdle, in which he is set to carry bottom weight. ABBOTT'S CHOICE is nicely treated in the Surbiton Steeplechase, and PIPER should take the Four-Year-Old Hurdle for Mr. Charles Hibbert. On Saturday, PIPER should be followed, if kept for the Novices' Hurdle. The Open Steeplechase should go to the selected of Gore's pair—KING OF THE SCARLETS or COLDREEN. The latter has been scratched from all handicaps, but that will not apply to this race. Probably King of the Scarlets will be the selected, as he has been scratched from an important engagement at Kempton Park next week. Now that Coldreen has gone out of the Middlesex Steeplechase BELUS will probably be returned the winner. MESMER should be worth backing in the Amateur's Hurdle.

At Manchester next week,

GLEN HESTON

should prove a good thing for the Palatine Steeplechase on Monday.

A "JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEPSTAKE.

A large number of our readers has suggested that *we* should organise a Mammoth Derby Sweepstake with tickets at a popular price, and the suggestion is receiving our careful consideration. There are, of course, certain legal difficulties in the way of carrying out the project—but, after all, legal difficulties are made to be overcome.

We hope to make a further announcement on the subject at an early date.

OUR SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL SELECTIONS.

Since we commenced the publication of our Table of Football Solutions, we have kept a careful analysis, which discloses the gratifying result that JOHN BULL heads the list of successful selections.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 18th January, 1913.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Year's Result.	JOHN BULL	Lotinga's Weekly.	Umpire.	Sunday Chronicle.	News of the World.	London Mail.	Weekly Dispatch.	Irish Sporting Illus.	Footbl. Guide.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE—1ST LEAGUE	Blackburn R. v. Middlesbro'	Blackburn won	Off	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Off
	Bradford C. v. Bolton W.	Bradford won	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home
	Chelsea v. Newcastle Un.	No match	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Away	Draw	Draw
	Derby C. v. Tottenham H.	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Everton v. Manchester U.	Everton won	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Away	Away	Draw	Home
	Manchester C. v. Liverpool	Liverpool won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw
	Sheffield Wed. v. Notts C.	Sheffield won	ff	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Off
	Sunderland v. Oldham A.	Sunderland won	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	West Brom. A. v. Aston V.	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home
	Woolwich A. v. Sheffield Un.	Woolwich won	Home	Draw	Away	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw
SOUTHERN LEAGUE—2ND LEAGUE	Birmingham v. Leicester F.	B'ham. won	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Blackpool v. Glossop	Blackpool won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bristol C. v. Stockport C.	Bristol won	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bury v. Fulham	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Away	Home	Home	Home
	Clapton O. v. Hull C.	Clapton won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	Draw	Away	Home
	Grimsby T. v. Barnsley	Draw	Off	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Away	Draw	Draw	Off
	Huddersfield v. Wolverhampton	Draw	Off	Home	Away	Away	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Off
	Notts F. v. Preston N. E.	No match	Off	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Off
	Lincoln C. v. Burnley	No match	Away	Home	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw
	Leeds C. v. Bradford	Bradford won	Draw	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home
	Northampton v. Queen's P. R.	North'pton won	Off	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Off
	Gillingham v. Brentford	Gillingham won	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	—	Away	Home	Draw	Home
	Watford v. Brighton and H.	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home
	Southampton v. Swindon	Swindon won	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Draw
	Stoke v. Coventry C.	Stoke won	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Reading v. Bristol R.	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Crystal P. v. Exeter C.	Palace won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Merthyr T. v. West Ham U.	No match	Home	Away	Away	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Home
	Plymouth A. v. Portsmouth	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Norwich City v. Millwall A.	Millwall won	Away	Draw	Away	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Away

Home signifies first mentioned team to win—Away second mentioned team to win.

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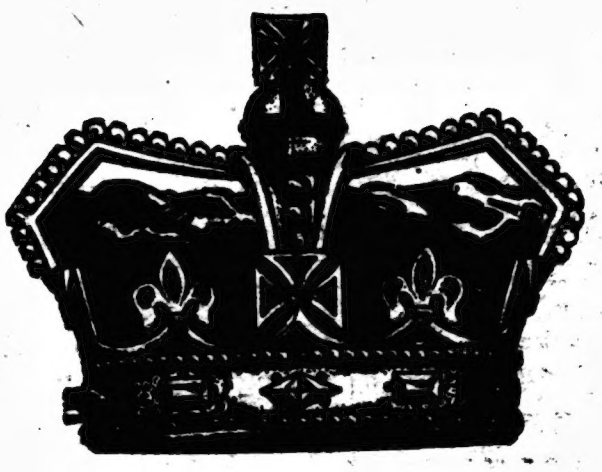

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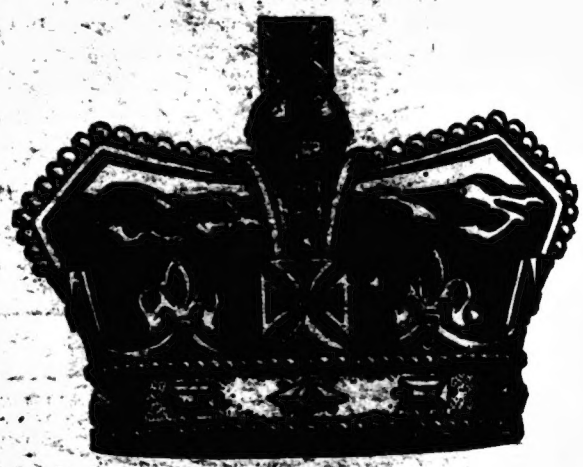

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